

## Giving an Answer (I Peter 3:15)

### Complaints from a Former "Preacher" About "The Church"

Find the **false statements** below and answer them:

"<sup>1</sup>We have begun to think that a Christian needs to repent to the Church. Because of this some of us have a hard time accepting as <sup>2</sup>scripturally baptized one who was immersed at one of our Bible Camps, <sup>3</sup>in a Christian Church, or <sup>4</sup>even in certain Churches of Christ. <sup>5</sup>We think in terms of a person being baptized into the Church - rather than being baptized into Christ. We need to get ourselves out of the center of our thinking and put Jesus there.

<sup>6</sup>Congregations of the church of Christ usually only teach on a handful of issues and omit studying a great many subjects. <sup>7</sup>It teaches a lot of things that are true (congregational church polity, immersionist baptism, communion in both kinds) <sup>8</sup>some things that are weird (not to eat in church buildings, <sup>9</sup>knee-length shorts) and <sup>10</sup>some things that are false (justification of divisiveness, <sup>11</sup>unity through hegemony, <sup>12</sup>works based righteousness, and the <sup>13</sup>sinfulness of musical instruments)" (Charles Wheeler, *Berean Spirit Discussion List*; 4/19/2002).

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1. There are times when someone needs to let the church know of their repentance (**Matthew 18:15-17**; cf. **James 5:16** and **Ezekiel 33:15-16**). For certain, if brethren are aware of one's sins they need to see their fruits of repentance (**Matthew 7:20**; cf. **Matthew 3:8** and **Acts 26:20**). Covering up sin is wrong (**Proverbs 28:13**).

2. The body of Christ does not have "Bible Camps". It is not the work of a "Bible Camp" to teach anyone. The local church is the only organized body with authority from Christ to teach (**I Thessalonians 1:7-8** and **I Timothy 3:15**). Consequently, if one is scripturally taught (**John 8:32**) and immersed at any location, they are a Christian as the location is of no importance (**Acts 8:26-39**).

3. I am not sure how one can be baptized "in a Christian Church". The Christian Church is a group of people, not a location. Thus, if one is baptized, being taught Christian Church teachings, and then into that body of people; they are not Christians, but members of the Christian Church. One cannot be taught wrong and scripturally converted (**Acts 19:1-7**). The Christian Church teaches their beliefs, not the Gospel and that makes it impossible to convert one into Christ through their perversions of the Gospel (**Matthew 13:19**, **Acts 8:12**, **Romans 6:17**, **Galatians 1:10-11**, **Colossians 1:5; 23**, and **II Thessalonians 2:14-15**).

4. Some who call themselves churches of Christ teach the doctrines of men even on what one must do to be saved. If one does not believe and obey the Gospel, they cannot be saved (**Mark 16:15-16**).

5. You cannot separate the fact that one is baptized in Christ AND into the church (**Galatians 3:27**, **Acts 2:41**, and **I Corinthians 12:12-13**).

6. There are many within churches of Christ who do not teach the whole counsel of God. This removes those congregations who put up with that as being the pillar and ground of the truth (**I Timothy 3:15**). The faithful teach all of the truth (**Acts 20:26-27** and **II Timothy 4:2-5**).
7. The church is not an “it”, but a people (**I Corinthians 12:27**). Those people are to be in subjection to Christ (**Ephesians 5:23-24** and **Colossians 1:18**). To be in Christ we must teach and obey all that He says (**II John 9**).
8. One who teaches you cannot eat in a “church building” are nuts. We have to partake of the Lord’s Supper which is eating (**Acts 20:7**). However, regardless of location, it is not a work of the church to eat common meals as a local congregation (**Romans 14:17** and **I Corinthians 11:18-34**). Hospitality is a work of individual Christians within the confines of their homes (**Acts 2:46**, **Romans 12:13**, **I Timothy 3:2**, **I Timothy 5:10**, and **I Peter 4:9**).
9. Modesty is a Bible subject (**I Timothy 2:9**). Exposure of the thigh makes you naked (**Exodus 28:42**). Furthermore, we should avoid wearing or being around those wearing or doing anything that may cause us to lust (**Matthew 26:41**, **Romans 14:21**, and **I Thessalonians 5:22**).
10. Some division is necessary (**Luke 12:51**). However, it is those who are in sin that cause division and they must be removed (**Romans 16:17-18** and **I Corinthians 5:1-8**).
11. Unity through hegemony [leadership] is exactly what we must do. We must follow Christ who is our leader (**I Peter 2:21**). Furthermore, we are to follow those who are following Christ to lead us (**I Corinthians 11:1**, **Titus 1:5**, and **Hebrews 13:7**; cf. **Acts 20:28**).
12. Works do declare righteousness and unrighteousness (**I John 3:12**). We must do works to be saved (**II Corinthians 5:10** and **James 2:14-26**). We are to maintain good works while realizing it is Christ who saves us (**Titus 3:4-8**).
13. Singing is the New Testament pattern of song worship (**Matthew 26:30**, **Mark 14:26**, **Acts 16:25**, **Romans 15:9**, **I Corinthians 14:15**, **Ephesians 5:19**, **Colossians 3:16**, **Hebrews 2:12**, and **James 5:13**). Since we are under the New Testament Law of Christ (**Romans 7:1-6**, **Ephesians 2:11-17**, and **Hebrews 9:15-17**), and Christ never authorized us to use mechanical instruments of music to worship God; we simply cannot (**John 4:23-24** and **Colossians 3:17**; cf. **Mark 7:1-9** and **Galatians 1:6-9**).