

## *Some Common Questions Answered*

1. Does the word of God teach that it is good to focus only on the milk OR meat of the word of God?

- We need a balanced spiritual diet (**Luke 4:4**).
- This means taking in the milk (**I Peter 2:1-3**).
- It means not just staying in the milk (**Hebrews 5:10-6:3**).
- There are times when some cannot get a spiritually meaty diet (**I Corinthians 3:1-2**; cf. **Mark 4:33** and **John 16:12**).
- It means we must also review things we already know from time to time (**Philippians 3:1**, **I Timothy 4:6**, **II Peter 1:12-13**, and **II Peter 3:1-2**).

2. Is immersion in water all that is required for a person to become a Christian?

- Baptism is NOT all one must do to be saved. There is no 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 steps to the Lord. There is much to be done to become a Christian. Such may even change based upon the person. For example, a man that robs a bank on Saturday and wants immersed on Sunday is going to have to restore what he took BEFORE he can become a Christian (**Acts 3:19**; cf. **Ezekiel 33:15** and **Matthew 3:8**). Water will not clean up the money he has stolen. Consider a person in an adulterous marriage. What will have to be done there may take more time than another situation. This is not as simple as some, even many, would have it. Nor is it impossible to go from vile to saved (**I Corinthians 6:9-11**).
- We are saved by more than just baptism (i.e. **Romans 8:23-24**, **Ephesians 2:1-10**, etc.).
- Consider that a person has to have an honest heart that seeks the truth/Lord first and foremost (**Jeremiah 29:13** and **Luke 8:15**).
- That honest seeker must then hear the word of God, the Gospel (**Romans 1:16**, **Romans 10:14-17**, and **Colossians 1:5-6**).
- The honest seeker must then be receptive of the truth (**I Thessalonians 2:13** and **II Thessalonians 2:10-12**).
- The honest seeker must understand what he or she has heard (**Matthew 13:19**).
- That honest seeker must then believe that truth (**Mark 16:15-16**, **John 8:23-24**, **Acts 18:8**, and **Hebrews 11:6**).
  - We must recall that, through this process, the message matters (**John 8:32** and **Romans 6:17**).
  - True faith will then bring a desire to act upon that faith (**Hebrews 11:7** and **James 2:14-26**).
- The believing individual will want to and will have to repent of his or her sins prior to baptism (**Luke 13:1-5**, **Acts 2:38**, **Acts 26:18-20**, and **II Timothy 2:19**).
  - Again, this step will be different for every individual (i.e. **Acts 19:18-19**).

- In this process one will have to count the cost of being a follower of our Lord (**Luke 14:25-33**; cf. **Luke 9:57-62** and **II Peter 2:20-22**). This may involve more for each individual.
- Then one's faith and changed heart will bring them to confess that Jesus is the Lord PRIOR to baptism (**Acts 8:35-39** and **Romans 10:10**).
- Then, again understanding that some individuals will have done more than we have even covered possibly, that individual is immersed for the remission of his or her sins (**Matthew 28:19**, **John 3:1-5**, **Acts 8:12-13**, **Colossians 2:12**, and **I Peter 3:20-21**) and into Christ (**Galatians 3:27**).
- We must realize that at this point you have a person who, not only through water but conversion of mind and action, has REALLY changed (**Romans 6:1-18**, **I Corinthians 6:9-11**, **Colossians 3:1-17**, and **Titus 2:11-3:3**).
- That person then grows in the grace of our Lord (**II Peter 3:18**) and continues as a faithful Christian/member of the body throughout the remainder of his or her natural life (**Colossians 1:23**).

### 3. How many religious bodies [churches] exist with God's authority?

- One (**Matthew 16:13-18**, **Ephesians 1:22-23**, **Ephesians 4:1-6**, and **Colossians 3:11-15**).

### 4. What name or names are approved of God to identify the authorized church?

- Body of Christ (**I Corinthians 12:27** and **Ephesians 4:12**).
- Church[es] of Christ (**Romans 16:16**).
- Church of God (**I Corinthians 1:2**), which is in reference to Christ (**Acts 20:28**; cf. **Ephesians 5:25**).
- Church of the living God (**I Timothy 3:15**) or "temple of..." (**II Corinthians 6:16**).
- Church of a specific location (i.e. **Colossians 4:16** and **I Thessalonians 1:1**) meaning the assembly of Christians in that location.
- Church of the firstborn (**Hebrews 12:23**), which is in reference to Christ (**Colossians 1:12-18**).
- We must never downplay the importance of identifying ourselves with Christ (**Acts 4:10-12** and **I Corinthians 1:10-13**; cf. **Matthew 10:32-33**).
- This subject is not as simple as just turning to a verse though. Lawful and expedient has to be considered (**I Corinthians 10:23**). If we refer ourselves as the church of the firstborn, to people of the world, they'll have no clue as to what we are saying. Think of "flock of God" (**I Peter 5:2**), which could be confusing.

### 5. What spiritual law do we live under today?

- The Law of Moses was done away with (**Romans 7:1-6**, **Ephesians 2:11-17**, and **Colossians 2:14**), but still has a purpose (**Romans 15:4**).
- We are now under the law of Christ (**Galatians 6:2**); the New Testament of Christ (**Hebrews 9:15-17**); the law of liberty (**James 1:25** and **James 2:10-12**).

6. What signs do you need to look for to know that Jesus is coming?

- There are no signs to the coming of Christ for only the Father knows when that shall be (**Matthew 24:35-36, Matthew 24:42-44, and II Peter 3:9-10**).
- Many contexts are twisted and misunderstood. Contexts such as **Matthew 23:37-24:34** were fulfilled already. The context even says “this generation” (**Matthew 24:34**). If a person find what they think is a sign, look at the context.

7. How long will Jesus reign on earth prior to the end of this planet?

- He will not again step foot on this earth (**Acts 1:9-11 and I Thessalonians 4:13-18**; cf. **I Corinthians 15:54-57**).
- His kingdom is NOT of this world (**Luke 17:20-21 and John 18:36**).
- Scriptures taken from Revelation are often twisted here. Remember, the things written in that book were primarily foretold to happen long ago (**Revelation 1:1-4**).
- Scriptures taken from the Old Testament, as judgments and prophecies upon nations (i.e. **Isaiah 13:1-19**), need to be understood as having already passed as well (**Matthew 5:17-18**). Proper contextual studies will show that!

8. What are authorized ways in which the church may spend the Lord’s money?

- We must begin by understanding that there is no authority for a collection unless there is an authorized work that such funds are used for (**I Corinthians 16:1-4**). There is no authority for a church savings account whether it draws interest or not! Also, when reading the aforementioned and coming Scriptures; notice the accounting processes in handling the Lord’s money.
- The church is authorized to spend the Lord’s money by supporting faithful preachers of the Gospel (**I Corinthians 9:1-14, II Corinthians 11:8, and Philippians 4:10-18**).
- The church is authorized to spend the Lord’s money by aiding truly needy saints (**Romans 15:25-27 and II Corinthians 8:4-9:14**).
- The church is authorized to spend the Lord’s money by, under clear restrictions, supporting widows indeed (**I Timothy 5:3-16**). For thought, consider how restricted this is and how the principles have implications on other matters in which the Lord’s money can be used.
- The church is authorized to spend the Lord’s money by supporting qualified (**I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9**) elders who are really doing the work of such (**I Timothy 5:17-18**).
- We know the work of the Lord’s church includes spiritual edification (**Ephesians 4:16**), but this must be understood cautiously. Many have used such as a “blank check” to spend His money on all sorts of unauthorized things. WE better NEVER walk on some line of something we are not SURE is right (**Ephesians 5:10 and I Thessalonians 5:21**). Some of which we’ll discuss more in questions 25-26.

- One thing is for sure, we must know we are using His money in a lawful, expedient, and edifying way (**I Corinthians 10:23**). This requires honesty.

#### 9. What New Testament Scriptures teach us to tithe today?

- Tithing is mentioned in the New Testament to show hypocrisy of those, still living under the Law of Moses at the time, in how they tithed (**Matthew 23:23, Luke 11:42, and Luke 18:10-14**). Remember, they were still under the Law of Moses during the time Jesus rebuked them in these examples (**Hebrews 9:15-17**).
- Tithing is mentioned in the New Testament in showing imperfection of things past that have ended (**Hebrews 7:1-22**).
- In the New Testament, there is authority for saints to give upon the first day of the week (**I Corinthians 16:1-2**) as purposed in heart (**II Corinthians 9:6-7**) to support the Lord's work. That's all we have.
- Tithing, as it were under the Law of Moses, required a tenth (with other qualifiers), of all that one possessed (**Leviticus 27:30-33 and Deuteronomy 12:6-7**). Such was given to/for the Levites to serve (**Numbers 18:21-24 and Nehemiah 10:37-39**) and to the truly needy among them too (**Deuteronomy 26:12-15**). **The Law, priesthood, etc. has changed. Thus, tithing is no longer in place.**
- They didn't just bring cash or promissory notes either (**II Chronicles 31:5-6**).

#### 10. Using Scriptures, explain how you know that the "Bible" is the inspired word of God.

- By looking at these Scriptures together the answer is clear (**II Samuel 23:2, Jeremiah 1:9, Jeremiah 36:1-2, Matthew 10:16-20, John 14:26, John 16:13, I Corinthians 2:9-13, I Corinthians 14:37, Galatians 1:10-12, II Timothy 3:15-17, and II Peter 1:20-21**).

#### 11. Does God know everything?

- God the Father knows everything (**I Samuel 16:7, I Chronicles 28:9, II Chronicles 16:9, Job 28:23-24, Job 34:21, Psalms 11:4, Psalms 139:1-12, Proverbs 5:21, Proverbs 15:3, Jeremiah 16:17, Jeremiah 17:10, Jeremiah 23:24, Jeremiah 32:19, Hosea 7:2, Amos 5:12, Luke 5:22, John 2:24-25, Hebrews 4:13, I John 3:20, and Revelation 2:2**).
- Do understand though that knowledge and experience are not the same thing. Jesus experienced things in the flesh that the Father and the Holy Spirit did not (**Hebrews 4:14-5:9**).

#### 12. Does God want you to hate the sin or hate the sinner?

- First, we should understand that the word "hate", as in Scriptures such as **Psalms 139:21-22**, means: "enemy". Such is certainly how we should view those in sin (**Matthew 12:30**). Not joyfully though (**Philippians 3:18-19**).

- The word “hate” as in Scriptures such as **Luke 14:26**, means: “detest”. In this way, as did Jesus (**Hebrews 1:9**), we are to hate sinners even when we are carnally related to them. Not allowing such a mindset to turn toward carnal hatred (**Galatians 5:19-21**).
- God hates sin, sinners, and His mindset toward them is clear (**Psalms 5:4-6, Psalms 11:5-7, Proverbs 15:9, Proverbs 15:26, Proverbs 15:29, Isaiah 59:1-2, John 9:31, I Peter 3:12**).
- We need to follow God (**Ephesians 5:1**) with the proper hatred towards sin and those who commit such (**Psalms 26:5, Psalms 97:10, Psalms 101:3, Proverbs 29:27, Amos 5:14-15, Romans 12:9, II Corinthians 6:14-18, and James 4:4**).

13. Does man have choices or does God make everything happen?

- Mankind has always been given the ability to choose whether to do right or to do wrong (**Genesis 2:15-3:20, Deuteronomy 5:29, Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Joshua 24:14-16, Matthew 11:28-30, Luke 8:4-15, John 8:31, Acts 2:37-41, Acts 13:38-50, Romans 8:13, Colossians 1:23, Hebrews 3:6-14, and Revelation 22:17**).
- Even when God worked directly and used someone for His purpose, that person or group of people had freewill (**Isaiah 10:5-18**).
- The fact is illustrated simply in that God’s will is that all men be saved (**I Timothy 2:3-4**), His efforts are to that end (**II Peter 3:9**), but the reality is contrary to His desire (**Luke 13:23-24**).
- Chance is a big part of life (**Ecclesiastes 9:11**).

14. How much sin can you commit before your relationship with God is severed?

- To have a relationship with God you must NOT SIN (**John 5:1-14, John 8:1-11, Romans 6:1-2, I Corinthians 15:34, Ephesians 1:4, II Timothy 2:19, I Peter 1:13-16, and I John 1:6-7**).
- Any sin makes you of the devil (**I John 3:8-10**).
- One sin separates you from the Father (**James 2:10-12; cf. Isaiah 59:1-3**).
- We can never think a “little white lie” is different than murder (**I Corinthians 6:9-11 and Revelation 21:8**).

15. Is/was Jesus Christ just a man?

- No, (**Isaiah 9:6-7, Matthew 1:23, John 8:23-24, John 8:56-58, John 10:30-33, John 20:28-31, Acts 20:28, Romans 9:1-5, Colossians 2:8-9, Titus 2:13, Hebrews 1:3, Hebrews 1:8-12, I John 3:16, and, I John 5:20**).
- Consider also that Jesus showed He was deity (i.e. **Matthew 28:17; cf. Matthew 4:10**).

16. Does God forgive sin unconditionally?

- No, (**II Chronicles 7:14, Proverbs 28:13, Jeremiah 7:1-5, Acts 8:13-24, I John 1:9, Revelation 2:5, Revelation 2:16, Revelation 2:22, Revelation 3:3, and Revelation 3:17-19**).

17. Can we forgive sin unconditionally?

- No, (**Matthew 18:15-17, Luke 17:3-4, Ephesians 4:32 [cf. Luke 13:3, Acts 3:19, and Acts 26:18-20], Galatians 6:1, Galatians 2:11-17, and James 5:19-20**).

18. Can brethren “agree to disagree” over Scriptural matters?

- No, (**Amos 3:3, Matthew 12:46-50, John 17:20-23, Romans 16:17-18, I Corinthians 1:10, I Corinthians 4:17, II Corinthians 13:11, Ephesians 4:1-6, Philippians 1:27, Philippians 2:2, Philippians 3:16, I Timothy 1:3-7, I Timothy 6:3-5, II Thessalonians 3:6, and II John 1:9-11**).
- Even when it comes to matters of authorized liberties, we MUST agree that they are liberties and unite in such and how we handle them with weak and/or strong brethren (**Romans 14:1-15:7, I Corinthians 8:1-13, and I Corinthians 10:24-33**).

19. Can a Christian fall away?

- Yes, (**Luke 8:13, Acts 8:12-24, I Corinthians 9:24-27, I Corinthians 10:12, Galatians 1:6-9, Galatians 3:1, Galatians 5:4, Galatians 5:7-9, I Timothy 4:1, Hebrews 3:12-13, Hebrews 6:4-6, Hebrews 10:26-31; 38, II Peter 2:20-22, Revelation 2:1-7, and Revelation 22:18-19**).

20. Can ungodly influences affect faithful Christians?

- Yes, (**Proverbs 6:23-29, Proverbs 13:20, Proverbs 19:27, Matthew 26:41, I Corinthians 15:33, Ephesians 4:14, Colossians 2:8, II Peter 2:1-3, and II Peter 2:18-19**).

21. To what degree can we trust our own wisdom?

- Do not, at all, trust your own wisdom (**II Samuel 7:1-7, Proverbs 3:5-7, Proverbs 12:15, Proverbs 14:12, Proverbs 14:16, Proverbs 16:2, Proverbs 16:25, Proverbs 20:24, Proverbs 21:2, Proverbs 28:26, Proverbs 30:12, Isaiah 5:21, Isaiah 53:6, Isaiah 55:7-9, Isaiah 56:10-12, Isaiah 65:2, Jeremiah 10:23, Jeremiah 17:9, Hosea 13:2, II Corinthians 10:12, II Corinthians 10:18, and Galatians 6:3**).
- Cannot get much clearer than this: “*Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom*” (**Proverbs 23:4**).

22. In what decisions do we need to look to the Scriptures for guidance and authority?

- In whatsoever we do (**Colossians 3:16-17**).
- The word of God fully equips us unto ALL good works (**II Timothy 3:15-17**).
- Knowledge of the word of God gives us all things pertaining to life and godliness (**II Peter 1:3-4**).
- There are many Scriptures to consider in connection with this question (i.e. **Leviticus 10:1-2, Numbers 9:1-9, Matthew 4:4, Luke 6:46, John 6:63, I Thessalonians 5:21, II Timothy 1:13, II Timothy 2:7, I John 5:2-3**, etc.).

23. Are good intentions enough to save someone?

- Good intentions mean nothing to our Lord (**II Samuel 7:1-7**) if they are not followed up with complete obedience of His will (**Matthew 7:21-27**).
- Jesus is the source of salvation to those whom obey Him (**Hebrews 5:8-9** and **Revelation 22:14**), not those whom intend to do so.
- The notes on questions 21-22 supply the rest of the answer to this question.
- Consider logically as well, does good intentions amount to anything in life at all? Can good intentions stop a car accident, plane crash, house fire, etc.? Do good intentions excuse adultery, murder, etc. (**Galatians 5:19-21**)? Why do people expect of God that which is illogical in every area of life?

24. Do all people go straight to Heaven or Hell when they die?

- No, (**Luke 16:19-31** and **Luke 23:39-43**).
- Heaven or Hell are eternal destinations for all of humanity after Jesus returns and judges all of us (**Matthew 25:31-46**).
- The Judgment Day does not happen at death (**Hebrews 9:27**), but at the Second Coming of Christ (**Matthew 16:27, John 5:28-29, and Romans 2:5-6**).

25. Is it the work of the church, collectively, to provide social activities?

- There is no Scripture that says social activities are a work of the church. That proves it's wrong (**Ephesians 5:10**).
- Honest studies lead you to realize social activities are NOT a spiritual work of the local church in any way (**John 6:26-27, Romans 14:17, and I Corinthians 11:18-34**).
- Social activities are solely given as instructions for faithful saints to perform outside of the work of the local church, on their own (**Acts 16:13-15, Romans 12:13, Hebrews 13:1-2, and I Peter 4:9**).

26. Whose work is it to help the fatherless and widows in their affliction?

- There is nothing about the church, collectively, helping the fatherless in the Scriptures. A fatherless child would have to be cared for by much more than just monetary help. The fatherless needs someone to open their homes and lives to

let them in. Thus, the command is for: “any man among you... to visit [look after; inspect; look on with eyes; cf. **Matthew 25:36-39**] the fatherless and widows in their affliction” (**James 1:26-27**).

- Regarding widows, the qualifications are strict in whom the church can collectively help (**I Timothy 5:3-16**).

#### 27. Can Christians judge each other?

- This is a “yes” and “no” answer.
- Yes, we can and must in many ways judge one another (**Matthew 7:15-20**, **Matthew 18:15-17**, **John 7:24**, **Acts 16:15**, **Romans 16:17-18**, **I Corinthians 5:1-6:8**, **I Corinthians 10:27-33**, **Galatians 1:6**, **Galatians 2:11-17**, **Galatians 3:1-3**, **Galatians 5:7-9**, **Galatians 6:1-2**, **Colossians 2:5**, **James 5:19-20**, etc.).
- On the other hand, there are areas of authorized liberties wherein we cannot judge, in the sense of condemning, one another (**Romans 14:1-5:7**).
- We also have to consider the speaking against faithful brethren in a sense of condemning them too (**James 5:11-12**).
- Again, as Scriptures above note, that is NOT to say we should not judge a brother when sin has occurred (**Luke 17:3-4**).
- Doing nothing when error occurs is a sin itself (**Revelation 2:14-16**).
- Be cautious not to judge incorrectly with limited facts (**Proverbs 18:13**).
- Don’t judge hypocritically (**Matthew 7:1-5** and **Romans 2:1-29**).
- Don’t judge with partiality (**James 2:1-9**).
- Also remember not to be naïve (**Proverbs 14:15**).

#### 28. When was or will the kingdom of Christ be established?

- The prophecies concerning the kingdom of Christ (**Isaiah 2:2-3**, **Daniel 2:31-45**, **Micah 4:1-2**, and **Mark 9:1**; cf. **Acts 1:6-8**) point to the kingdom being established in **Acts 2:1-41**. Remember, the Lord’s house is now the church (**I Timothy 3:15**), which makes the kingdom and the church one in the same (**Hebrews 12:22-23**).
- The kingdom has existed since the first century (**Colossians 1:12-13** and **Revelation 1:9**).
- It’s not an earthly kingdom (**Luke 17:20-21** and **John 18:36**).

#### 29. When did or will the last days begin?

- We have been in the last days since the first century (**Acts 2:16-17** and **Hebrews 1:1-2**).

#### 30. What are the roles of authority starting with God down to children?

- The Father, the Son, the Holy Ghost, man, woman, child, and to take to one more step, then animals (**I Corinthians 11:3**, **John 14:26-28**, **John 16:13-15**, **Ephesians 1:20-23**, **Ephesians 5:22-6:4**, and **Genesis 1:26-31**).

- For the sake of further thought, authority has been given of the Father to Jesus over all things right now (**Matthew 28:18**). Jesus will give that back over to the Father after the Judgment (**I Corinthians 15:24-28**).
- All of us live to His pleasure (**Revelation 4:11**).
- Furthermore, lest one get too high-minded of their authority, let's remember three things:
  - We all serve one another (**Galatians 5:13**).
  - Submit to one another (**Ephesians 5:21** and **I Peter 5:5-6**).
  - Though a man has authority over the woman (**I Timothy 2:11-12**), she does have roles in the home given to her by God that they man cannot take away (**Proverbs 31:10-31**, **I Timothy 5:14**, and **Titus 2:3-5**).

31. Is there any race of humanity that is superior to another?

- No, (**Acts 10:34-35**, **Acts 17:24-30**, **Romans 1:16**, **Romans 3:29-30**, **Romans 10:12-13**, **Galatians 3:26-29**, and **Colossians 3:10-15**).

32. How must a Christian view the drinking of alcoholic beverages?

- Sinful, something to steer clear of (**Proverbs 20:1**, **Proverbs 21:17**, **Proverbs 23:20-21**, **Proverbs 23:29-35**, **Proverbs 31:4-5**, **Isaiah 5:11**, **Isaiah 5:22**, **Isaiah 28:7-8**, **Hosea 4:11**, **Habakkuk 2:15**, **Matthew 26:41**, **Luke 21:33-34**, **Romans 13:13**, **I Corinthians 6:9-10**, **Ephesians 5:17-18**, **I Thessalonians 5:7-8**, **Titus 2:1-6**, **I Peter 4:1-5**, and **I Peter 5:8**).

33. What is supposed to be the first priority of a Christian?

- Pleasing God (**Ecclesiastes 12:13-14**, **Matthew 6:33**, **Mark 12:30**, **Luke 9:57-62**, **Colossians 1:10**, **Colossians 3:1-4**, and **Revelation 4:11**)

34. Does Deuteronomy 24:1-4 apply today?

- No, (**Matthew 19:3-9** and **Mark 10:1-12**; cf. **Romans 7:1-6** and **I Corinthians 7:1-11**).
- We are not under the Law of Moses to make the application to us to begin with (see the answers to question # 5).

35. Will there be more or less people in Heaven than in Hell?

- Less in Heaven (**Matthew 7:13-14**, **Matthew 22:1-14**, **Luke 13:23-24**, and **Luke 18:8**).
- Consider God's view of the world (**Romans 12:1-2**, **Galatians 1:3-4**, **Ephesians 2:1-2**, **James 4:4**, **I John 2:15-17**, and **I John 5:19**).
- Now, to be clear, it is not God's choice that the majority of humanity go to Hell (**John 4:42**, **I Timothy 2:3-4**, **II Peter 3:9-14**, and **I John 4:14**).

36. Can knowledge of the Scriptures become dangerous?

- Yes, (**I Corinthians 8:1**).
- Knowledge, even misplaced, is dangerous (**Isaiah 47:10**).
- Thus, realize that God's people are supposed to be a people whom are knowledgeable (**Proverbs 10:14, Proverbs 13:16, Proverbs 19:2, Hosea 4:1-6, Romans 15:14, Colossians 3:10, and II Peter 3:18**), but be CAUTIOUS not to get puffed up. Consider the next question in continuation of this point.
- Also realize that studying or being taught all of the time does not mean one has proper knowledge (**II Timothy 2:14-18 and II Timothy 3:1-7**).

37. Where will pride get us?

- Pride is sinful and will cost a person his or her soul (**Exodus 10:1-3, Psalms 10:4, Psalms 12:3, Psalms 138:6, Proverbs 6:16-19, Proverbs 8:13, Proverbs 11:2, Proverbs 16:5, Proverbs 16:18, Proverbs 21:4, Jeremiah 9:23-24, I Timothy 6:3-5, James 4:6-10, I Peter 5:5-6, and I John 2:16**).