

Churches of Christ - Things to Know about their History and Beliefs

Churches of Christ are independent Christian congregations. They are linked with one another through following the true Word of God as written in the New Testament of Jesus Christ. Now they are represented worldwide as a non-denominational group. The Church of Christ was restored out of the American Restoration Movement in the early 1800's.

A few men who really read and understood the Word of God knew that we needed to worship God in the way God said in His Holy Word. So, they began to do just that.

1. The Churches of Christ began in 33 A.D.

The Churches of Christ began in 33 A.D. on the Day of Pentacost. Believers began to meet as stated in Acts 2: 42-47. Over the next 1700 years men altered the church and how they worshipped God. In the 1500's Martin Luther realized that men were turning the church into something that satisfied their desires and not what the scriptures said. The Protestant churches began during this period called the reformation. Then in 1830 men in the United States of America realized that Martin Luther had not gone far enough to bring the church back to its God centered foundation. So, the [American Restoration Movement](#) of the 19th century began with two locations that followed the exact Word of God.

2. The founders believed in adhering solely to the Bible.

Churches of Christ seek to follow the teachings of the [Bible](#) being the only source.

3. The Churches of Christ are “Stand Alone” congregations.

Following the New Testament, churches of Christ are autonomous. That means each congregation “stands alone” and does not answer to other congregations or a group that is “higher up” and tells them what to do.

4. Churches of Christ are led by elders.

In each congregation there is a group of elders who serve as the governing authority. If two men are qualified, the congregation will have two elders. If not, a men's leadership group works with the preacher to make decisions. These men are chosen by the local congregations on the foundation of qualifications established in the scriptures ([1 Timothy 3:1-8](#)). Serving under the elders are ministers, deacons, teachers, and evangelists or missionaries.

5. Churches of Christ believe in a process of salvation.

Churches of [Christ](#) regularly teach that the process of salvation comprises the subsequent actions:

- One must be properly taught, and hear ([Romans 10:14-17](#));
- One must believe or have faith ([Hebrews 11:6](#), [Mark 16:16](#));

- One must repent, which means turning from one's former lifestyle and choosing God's ways ([Acts 17:30](#));
- One must confess belief that Jesus is the son of God ([Acts 8:36-37](#));
- One must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ ([Acts 2:38](#)); and
- One must live faithfully as a Christian ([1 Peter 2:9](#)).

6. Churches of Christ baptize by immersion only.

According to the Church of [Christ](#)'s the word [baptize](#) originates from the Greek word "baptizo" and precisely means, "to dip, to immerse, to plunge." In addition to the accurate meaning of the word, immersion is practiced because it was the scriptural truth of the Word of God in the apostolic era. That is the time the Apostles lived. Furthermore, only immersion corresponds to the representation of baptisms as given by the apostle Paul in [Romans 6:3-5](#) where he describes it as a burial and resurrection.

7. "A cappella" singing is the only music used in worship.

As a return to New Testament Faith and practice - acapella singing is the only music utilized in worship. This singing, unaccompanied by instruments of music, corresponds to the music used in the [apostolic](#) church and for numerous centuries thereafter ([Ephesians 5:19](#)). It is believed that there is no jurisdiction for involving in acts of worship not found in the New Testament. This belief excludes the use of instrumental music, along with the use of candles, incense, and other comparable elements.

8. "Communion is one of the most important things all Christians should do each week. (Acts 20:7)

On the first day of the week, all Christians are to participate in the breaking of the bread (Matthew 26:26) and the drinking of the fruit of the vine (Matthew 26:27-28).

Questions:

1. Does the Church of Christ follow the Bible or other books?
2. Does the Church of Christ believe in baptism for the remission of sins or is it just for membership?
3. Do Christians need mechanical instruments to worship God or are they for man and his needs?

Next Steps: Pay attention at worship service to see if the congregation follows the scriptural steps to proper worship.