The Church of Christ

56th and Vine Lincoln, Nebraska

Good Morning

- Today we are going to discuss some of the Biblical New Testament teachings concerning the Church of Christ.
- Briefly talk about the Restoration Movement.
- End with a call to Worship.

Our Church of Christ

- This morning, I make no statements of faith involving other Churches of Christ in the World.
- What we will look at today will only involve the Church here at 56th and Vine.
- Love to visit various Churches of Christ on vacation.
- Beware you never know what you will experience visiting different Churches of Christ.

My Dad Bill Sales

- Grew up in Guthrie, Kentucky.
- Church of Christ Tent Gospel Meeting.
- Dad decided to accept Christ during that meeting – 1947 my dad was 12.
- Baptized in Clarksville, Tennessee.
- He remembers rejoicing.
- Joined the Air Force.
- Stationed at Offutt in Bellevue Nebraska.
- Married my Mother on September 6,1958.

Life Long Member

- The Church of Christ is all I know.
- How blessed I am to be a life long member of the Church of Christ.
- How thankful I am that I have not had to navigate belonging to other denominations.
- How blessed we are all to be here today worshiping at this Church knowing that you are with brothers and sisters doing our best to follow God's Word.

Church of Christ

- I love the Church of Christ!
- I have been a life long member.
- I make no Apologies.
- Grew up in Bellevue, Nebraska
- 1975 Moved to Syracuse, Nebraska
- Started a Church
- 1994 Started worshiping at 56th & Vine.

Church

- The word “church” derives from the Greek term ekklesia, meaning, “assembly” or “gathering”. Called-out assembly
- In the New Testament, ekklesia specifically translates to a community or congregation of believers.
- The biblical meaning of church does not refer to a physical building, but rather to a called-out assembly of people who follow Jesus Christ

Where do we get our Name?

- Acts 11:25-26
- “Then Barnabas went to Tarsis to look for Saul, and when he found him, be brought him to Antioch. So, for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.”

We are Christians

- We are followers of Christ.
- We are disciples of Christ
- We are servants of Christ

- Our lives are transformed by faith in him.

Disciple

- A student and lifelong follower who actively learns from Jesus and copies His way of living.

New Creation

- A baptized person whose old sinful life is forgiven and replaced with a new spiritual nature (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”

Adopted Child

- A believer brought into God's spiritual family with full rights as His child
- Romans 8:15
- "For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "
  Abba, Father."

Temple

- A person whose physical body houses the Holy Spirit, changing how they live and think.
- I Corinthians 6:19
- “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your body.”

The Church of Christ Who Are We?

- We Are Biblical
- We believe the Bible is God's inspired Word and our only rule of faith and practice

Acts 17:10-11

- “As soon as it was night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. Now the Bereans were of more noble character that the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.”

The Bereans

- **Methodical Testing:** They used the Scriptures to verify, or "fact-check," the message, evaluating "whether these things were so".
- **Context:** Their "scriptures" consisted of the Old Testament, against which they verified the claims of the New Covenant

The Bereans

- **Noble-Mindedness:** They were open-minded yet critical thinkers, characterized by willingness to listen and eagerness to learn. Noble Character
- **Daily Examination:** They didn't rely solely on Paul's apostolic authority; they personally scrutinized the scriptures regularly, not just once.

How about us?

- Do we receive the message with great eagerness?
- Do we examine the scriptures every day?
- Do we bring our Bibles to Church?
- Do we have a passion to learn all we can about our Faith?
- Are we teaching our children about our Faith?

We follow Christ

- We obey the Gospel through faith, repentance, confession, and baptism for the remission of sins.

Acts 2: 37-38

- “When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”
- Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

We Serve Others

- We strive to be the hands and feet of Jesus, meeting the needs and sharing His love.

Galatians 5:13-15

- “You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature, rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

We are Family

- We love one another as Christ loves us and encourage one another as often as we can.

Hebrews 10:25

- “Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all more as you see the Day approaching.”

Who is the Head of the Church?

- Jesus
- Colossians 1:18
- “And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.”

Ephesians 1:22-23

- “And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.”

The Church of Christ

- Is not a denomination
- The churches that have the title “church of Christ” are autonomous churches that are governed by the principle of sola scriptura under the guidance of a plurality of elders.

The Church of Christ

- We follow Scripture alone.
- We hold to the principle of sola scriptura: Scripture alone is our final authority for faith and practice.
- No creed above the Bible.
- No manual equal to Scripture.
- No human-written confession that governs all churches.

The Bible is the Standard

What We Are Not

- Not a denomination
- Not under worldly authority
- Not bound by human creeds
- Not connected to a central organization
- All are welcomed.

Autonomous Congregations

- Each congregation is self- governened under Christ. Ther is no earthy headquarters, no denominational council, no governing convention, no pope, and no centralized authority deciding doctrine for every congregation.

Led By A Plurality Of Elders

- Scripture presents local church's being shepherded by a plurality of elders within that congregation, not controlled by an outside organization.

Elder Qualifications

- Titus 1: 6-9
- Blameless
- Husband of one Wife
- Children believe
- Not wild or disobedient
- Not overbearing
- Not quick tempered
- Not given to drunkenness

Elder Qualifications

- Not violent
- Not pursuing dishonest gain
- Hospitable
- Love what is good
- Self Controlled
- Upright
- Holy
- Disciplined

No Money To A Central Organization

- We send no money to a central organization. When churches cooperate financially for Missons or relief, they do so voluntarily. No funds are sent upward into a denominational structure that controls churches beneath it.

Unity Is Found in Christ, Not Control

- The New Testament pattern consistently shows local congregations functioning independently while still being united in Christ. Unity was never meant to come from organizational control, but from shared submission to Jeus and His Word.

1 Corinthians 1:10

- “Now I urge you, brothers and sister, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you…”

Church of Christ

- The name “Church of Christ” in not meant to identify a denomination. It is meant to identify ownership.
- The Church belongs to Christ.
- Not man
- Not a movement
- Not an institution
- Christ and Christ alone

Churches of Christ

- There is only ONE CHURCH in the Bible! It's members are called Christians (followers of Christ)

- Acts 11: 26
- "The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch."

Restoration Movement

- In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, many sincere Bible students were burdened by denomination division and desired to restore the church as it existed in the New Testament. This desire gave birth to the Restoration Movement in America.

Barton W Stone 1722 - 1844

- He urged Christians to abandon denominational names and simply be known as “Christians”.

- “The Bible, and the Bible only, is the religion of Protestants, and the Bible alone is the creed of Christians.”

Thomas Campbell 1763-1854

- He declared, “ Where the Scriptures speak, we speak, where the Scriptures are silent, we are silent.”

Alexander Campbell 1788-1866

- He preached and wrote extensively, calling people to return to the New Testament faith and practice.

1801

- Cane Ridge Revival
- A powerful spiritual awakening in Kentucky that influenced the begging of the Restoration movement.

1809

- The Declaration & Address
- Thomas Campbell published the historic Declaration and Address, urging Christins to reject sectarianism.

1832

- The Handshake Agreement
- Leaders from the Stone and Campbell movements united in Lexington Kentucky.

19th Century

- Rapid Growth

- The movement spread across America through preaching, debates, publications, and mission efforts.

20th Century

- Worldwide Expansion
- Missionaries carried the gospel to the nations. Today the Church of Christ is in over 100 countries.

Division late 19th Century

- In the late 19th Century, differences arose regarding the use of instrumental music and missionary societies. As a result, three major groups emerged.

Churches of Christ

- Maintained worship according to New testament authority (a cappella).

Christians Churches (Independent)

- Accepted instrumental music and mission boards.

Disciples of Christ

- Formed with different practices and organizational structure.

Jesus Christ

- Christ purchased the church with His blood. (Acts 20:38)
- Christ built the church (Matt. 16:18)
- Christ called the church “His” (Matt. 16:18)
- The church is called the body of Christ (Eph.1-22-23)
- The church is referenced as Christ’s own house (Heb. 3:6)

Jesus Christ

- Christ gave Himself for the church (Eph. 5:25)
- The church is the bride of Christ (2 Cor.11:2)
- Christ is the Savior of the church (Eph. 5:23)
- Christ is the head of the church (Eph. 1:23)
- Christ adds the saved to the church (Acts 2:47?

Distinctive Teachings

- The Bible alone as the final authority
- Salvation through faith, repentance, confession, and baptism for remission of sins
- Baptism by immersion
- Weekly observance of the Lord's Supper
- Congregational autonomy

Distinctive Teachings

- Priesthood of all believers
- Worship according to New Testament examples
- No denominational headquarters
- Unity based on the Bible
- Acapella singing (No Instruments)

Ephesians 5: 19-21

- “Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jeus Christ. Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”
- Temple worship in the Old Testament used instruments.
- Synagogue worship in the New Testament no known use of instruments.

Committed to the Great Commission

Matthew 28:19

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

Today

- The Church of Christ continues today with the same mission. To preach the gospel, make disciples, and establish New Testament churches that follow the pattern of the first-century church.

Ephesians 4: 5-6

- “There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to one hope when you were called – one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all”.
- One Lord
- One Faith
- One Baptism
- One God and Father of All

2 Timothy 4:3

- “For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.”

2 Timothy 2: 23-25

- “Don’t have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has lead them captive to do his will.”

How to address incorrect teaching

- Pray First
- Private Approach
- Be Specific and Objective
- Bring Scripture
- Stay Calm and Humble
- Be prepared for misunderstanding
- Involve Leadership if Necessary

Worship

- No Instruments
- Weekly observance of the Lords Supper
- Men lead the worship

2 Samuel 6: 12-16

- “Now King David was told, “The Lord has blessed the household of Obed-Edom and everything he has, because of the ark of God.” So, David went down and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with rejoicing. When those who were carrying the ark of the Lord had taken six steps, he sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf.

2 Samuel 6:14-16

- “David, wearing a linen ephod, danced before the Lord with ALL HIS MIGHT, while he and the entire house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouts and the sound of trumpets. As the ark of the Lord was entering the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul watched from a window. And when she saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord, she despised him in her heart. “

What can we learn from David

- We can be scripturally correct when we worship the Lord.
- But are we truly worshiping when:
- We don’t sing
- We don’t listen to the message
- We don’t listen to the prayers
- We are angry with a brother or sister
- Is there room for some emotion when we worship?

Are you a member of this Church of Christ

- Would you like to know more about this Church?
- Do you need someone to talk to about your spiritual journey?
- Would you like to study with someone learning more about Jesus our Lord?