

THE MARKS OF A FAITHFUL LOCAL CHURCH

1 Thessalonians 5:21

WHAT NAME DO THEY
CLAIM?

The Name is Important

- A denominational name promotes division – 1 Cor. 1:10-13
- A church's name should promote unity in the body
 - Needs to be a scriptural name – 1 Cor. 1:2; 1 Thess. 2:14; Rom. 16:16; 1 Cor. 16:19
 - Scriptural names are not divisive and reflect a desire to follow Christ and His word – 1 Cor. 4:6
- The name is not a sure guide, seeing anyone can adopt a name

WHAT GOSPEL DO THEY PREACH?

Only Christ's Gospel Saves!

- The gospel saves and makes disciples who are to establish local churches – Mt. 28:18-20; Rom. 16:16
 - The *one gospel* must be preached – Gal. 1:8-9
 - If the gospel is changed, people are not saved – Rom. 1:16; 2 Jn. 9-11
 - Churches change the gospel!
- A local church with a perverted gospel may have nice people and wear the name of Christ, but not be saved – 2 Thess. 2:13-14

WHAT DO THEY PRACTICE?

Christ's Churches Do Christ's Works

- A local church can only be Christ's church if it does what Christ has commanded.
- To form a local church of Christ, we must go by the rule book, or the N.T.
 - In Acts and the epistles we find a pattern regarding local church's worship, work, and organization.
 - Churches and Christians continued in the *apostle's* doctrine – Acts 2:42
 - The apostles taught the same thing in every church – 1 Cor. 4:17

Its Worship will Reflect N.T. Worship

- Assemble on Sunday to take the Lord's Supper – 1 Cor. 11:33-34; Acts 20:7
- Preaching from God's word delivered by men, not women – 1 Cor. 14:34-35
- Will be orderly and produce biblical edification – 1 Cor. 14:26, 40
- Praying and singing – 1 Cor. 14:15; Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19
- Purposeful giving on Sunday – 1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 8:7

Its Work will Reflect N.T. Work

- Preaching and support of preaching the gospel – 1 Thess. 1:8; Phil. 4:15-16
- Edifying of the saints through teaching the word of God – 1 Cor. 14:26; Eph. 4:11-12, 15
- Benevolent work toward the saints of God – Acts 2, 4, 6; Rom. 15; 1 Cor. 16; 2 Cor. 8-9
- That is the totality of the work given the local church in the N.T.

Its Organization will Reflect N.T. Organization

- **Elders** who shepherd the flock and **deacons** who serve the flock – Phil. 1:1; Acts 20:17, 28
- It will not have *one* “pastor,” seeing a pastor is a *shepherd*.
 - Only elders are told to be the shepherds of God’s flock – 1 Pet. 5:1-3
 - Preachers/evangelists are those who proclaim the good news, not pastors/shepherds – Eph. 4:11