**Christian or “Church of Christer?”**

**Acts 11:26**

**Introduction:**

   1. A new name prophesied in Isaiah (62:2)
   2. A term kicked about loosely in our time – as an adjective and even as a noun.
B. The church of Christ in the universal sense is made up of all Christians (Acts 2:47)
C. Many local churches are made up of “Christians” and “Church of Christers”
D. What is the difference between a “Christian” and a “Church of Christer?”

**Discussion:**


A. One who has heard the word or Jesus preached (vv. 19-20; Rom. 10:17).
B. One who has believed the word (v. 21; cf. Mark 16:15-16).
C. One who has “turned unto the Lord.” (v. 21)
   1. Turning involves repentance – a change of mind.
      a. Change of mind away from sin (cf. Acts 8:22)
      b. Change of mind toward God (Acts 20:21)
   2. Turning involves baptism.
      b. One is baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:27)
D. One who cleaves unto the Lord (v. 23).
   2. By walking in the light (1 John 1:7).
   3. By purity of life (Tit. 2:11,12)
   4. By being zealous of good works (Tit. 2:14; Eph. 2:10; 1 Cor. 15:58).
E. One who is in the church – “Disciples” or “Christians” at Antioch made up the church (v. 26).
   1. In the church and loyal to the Lord – “unto the Lord” (vv. 21, 23)
   2. Added to the church is the same as added to the Lord (Acts 2:47; 5:14).

II. **A “Church of Christer”**

A. One who turned (converted) to the “Church of Christ” rather than the Lord.
   1. May have “inherited” his faith in “the right church” rather than learning it - 1st and 2nd generation
   2. May be impressed with the people, programs, or facilities of the church – rather than the gospel.
   3. May “joined the church” in order to unite the family or to please someone they loved.
B. One who cleaves to the church rather than to Lord.
   1. More concerned with what the “Church of Christ” teaches than what the Bible teaches.
   2. Lets the church (elders, preacher, or members) do his studying and deciding for him.
      a. Does not realize that honoring them for their works sake does not mean blind loyalty.
      b. Does not realize it is Christ and not the church that determine sound doctrine (cf. 2 John 9)
C. One who glorifies the church rather than God in the church (Eph. 3:21)
   1. Does not seem to realize that Christ is the Savior and the church is the saved.
   2. Does not seem to realize that Christ is the ruler and the church is the ruled.
   3. Does not seem to realize what it is that makes the church “of Christ.”

**Conclusion:**

A. A Christian must be member of the church of Christ (universal and local), but a follower of Christ.
B. A “Church of Christer’s” faith is in the church of Christ rather than in the doctrine of Christ.