



The True Church.

Many people think of the church as a group of people believing in a Christian God. Denominations are thought to be just groups of people believing in that same God but in different ways.

The Bible's description of the church is as a human body.

I CORINTHIANS 12:27 "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular."

The True Church is the body of Jesus Christ, with each individual, as St. Paul puts it, a part or a member of that body; possibly an eye, foot, or hand.

Earlier in that chapter Paul had listed many of the gifts and callings within that body and then in verse 13 he says, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."

So the Church is the body of Jesus Christ, it isn't just those who believe. After all, the Devil believes Jesus is the Son of God but no sane person would claim that Satan is a Christian and a part of Christ's church!

Something more than just belief is required.

Ephesians 4:4 "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;"

Verse 4 states that there is one body. There are not umpteen different bodies of Christ around the world there is one, only one.

But what makes a body alive?

It is the spirit.

I CORINTHIANS 12:13 "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."

Who, or what is this Spirit?

A spirit is the life of a person. The word spirit and ghost can mean the same thing. When Jesus died on the cross it is said He gave up the ghost, His Spirit left His body.

The Spirit that entered the church in Acts chapter 2 was the Holy Spirit, the life of God, the Spirit of Jesus.

When we think of Christ we all too often think of a man in Israel two thousand years ago, and we miss the point. He is eternal He has always been and He always will be.

JOHN 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made."

Christ was the Creator. He is God.

Once risen from the dead Jesus appeared to the disciples several times before ascending into heaven. But the promise was that He would be with, even in His people.

JOHN 14:18 (Jesus speaking)

18 ¶ I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

20 At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you."

And that's what happened. Jesus returned in the Old Testament image of a pillar of fire to live in His Church, His body of believers. So the True Church is the body of Jesus Christ, each member being someone in whom Jesus Christ lives and acts. Each member will be under the headship of Jesus Christ through His Holy Spirit, that eternal life living in them.

And just as a person with the spirit of Beethoven in them would write music, or someone with the spirit of Shakespeare would write

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plays, so someone with the Spirit of Christ will produce the life and works of Jesus in today's world. One difference though is that no one person or member has all the gifts, callings, and attributes of Christ. That is why each member must be controlled by the Spirit so that all those gifts and callings can operate at the right time in the right place. It is also why the various members come together each Sunday; to share and encourage each other, as well as to hear and see God's life working through His body here on earth.

The True Church then is the body of Christ; that is, those people throughout the world that allow the Spirit of Jesus to control their lives so that He can operate them. They are Mrs Jesus, the Bride of Christ.