**Is Christ Divided?**

We are members of the Oak Ridge church of Christ. We call ourselves Christians ([**Acts 11:26**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Acts%2011:26)) and we hold to the Bible as our one and only Truth. Church of Christ is a biblical description of Christians who work together for the cause of Christ ([**Ro. 16:16**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Romans%2016:16)). We are independent assemblies with no organization beyond our own number as described in [**Phil. 1:1**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Philippians%201:1). There are Christians across the world working with local congregations of God’s people such as described in [**Rev. 2**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Revelation%202)**-3**. Christians are members of Christ’s body, which is also known as His Church ([**Acts 2:47**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Acts%202:47)**,**[**Eph. 5:23**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Ephesians%205:23)). Our mission is to stand for God’s truth (the gospel) and teach it to all people ([**Matt. 28:18-20**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Matthew%2028:18-20)**,**[**Romans 1:16**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Romans%201:16)**,**[**1 Tim. 3:15**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=1%20Timothy%203:15)). We are accountable to our one and only Head Jesus Christ ([**Eph. 1:22-23**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Ephesians%201:22-23)**,**[**Col. 1:18**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Colossians%201:18)).

We live in a world that has thousands of churches that follow thousands of teachings that contradict one another. These divisions over the Bible are not what Jesus wants. He wants all to be united (**John 17:20-21, Ephesians 4:1-16**). There is nothing new about people being divided about God. They had the same problem in the church at Corinth, almost 2,000 years ago.

**1 Corinthians 1:10-31**

a. Paul says there were divisions in the Corinthian church. This should not have been so. Some were following Paul, some Apollos, some Cephas (or Simon Peter), and some Christ. These divisions happened when people started following men rather than Christ (notice **Acts 5:29, 10:25-26, 1 Corinthians 11:1**).

b. Notice the questions that Paul asks in **verse 13**. Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? Good questions that we can ask today.

c. Then Paul compares the foolishness of man to the wisdom of God.

d. In **verse 23** Paul points them back to where they should have been; preaching Christ crucified!

**Acts 8:26-39** - The Holy Spirit guided Philip to the Ethiopian eunuch. Philip then preached Jesus to the eunuch. The eunuch obeyed by confessing that he believed that Jesus was the Son of God and was baptized (**Romans 6:1-8**). Notice in these scriptures from the Holy Spirit that there is no mention of:

a. Sprinkling or pouring as a substitute for baptism. There is no verse in the Bible that says we are to be sprinkled or have water poured over us to wash away our sins.

b. There is no mention of the Eunuch saying the "sinner's prayer". He simply obeyed the gospel of Jesus that Philip preached to him.

c. The Eunuch did not speak in tongues as a sign that he had been converted. There is no mention of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in this account. We also know that Philip did not have the power or authority to pass on these gifts, as did the apostles (**Acts 8:14-20**).

d. Nowhere in the passage is it mentioned that you simply have to accept Jesus as your personal Savior in order to become a Christian. Rather the eunuch obeyed the gospel and was then added to the body of Christ, just like the first Christians did in Acts chapter 2 (**Acts 2:36-47**).

The fact of the matter is that the Holy Spirit sent Philip to the Ethiopian Eunuch, so he could hear the gospel of Jesus preached to him. The Eunuch obeyed the law of Christ (**Galatians 6:2**), the law of liberty (**James 1:25, 2:12**), and the law of the Spirit (**Romans 8:2**).

We have dear friends say they are Christians who happen to be members of a denomination. Did the Eunuch become a member of a denomination or did he become a Christian? The gospel of Christ produces Christians, disciples and followers of Jesus! If you are following the teaching of anyone else (e.g., any man-made religion including denominations) you are not living for Jesus (**Luke 9:23, Acts 4:12**). It is impossible to be a Christian and be a follower of a manmade religion? Jesus says it is not possible (**Matthew 7:21-24, 15:9**)!

We encourage you to obey the Lord. Do what the Ethiopian eunuch did. Obey Jesus. Then you can go on your way rejoicing like he did. He rejoiced because he knew his sins had been washed away in the waters of baptism. He had become a Christian! No miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit were bestowed on him. What saved him was obedience to the gospel of Jesus!

We invite all in our audience to our Bible studies on Wednesday at 7pm and Sunday morning at 9am. We would love to study God’s together with you! Please check the scriptures we have covered tonight. We want to help you in any way we can. Contact us for Bible studies by telephone, e-mail, or simply come to one of our assemblies. Contact: We assemble at 225 North Purdue Ave. in Oak Ridge at 9am on Sundays and 7pm on Wednesdays; oakridgechurch.com; larry.paden@oakridgechurch.com, murray.wade@oakridgechurch.com; (865) 693-1416.

We plan to have a re-airing of this program on Monday, February 20, 2023. Our next live program is planned for March 6, 2023 when we plan to study “**James 3:13-18**” We hope to see you next time on **"Speaking The Truth In Love".**