

The Christian Church

I Believe in... the Holy Christian Church

'Holy' means set apart

'Christian' means "little Christ" ("catholic" means "universal")

'Church' – What is it?

"Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."

- Matthew 16:16-18

1. The Founder of the Church is Christ.

The Relationship of Christ and His Church		
Christ is the...	We are the....	Reference
Bridegroom	Bride	John 3:27-30
Head	Body	Colossians 1:18
Good Shepherd	Sheep	John 10:14
High Priest	Priesthood	Revelation 1:16
Cornerstone	Living stones	1 Peter 2:4-6

2. The Foundation of the Church is...

1. Simon Peter
2. The confession that Jesus is the Christ

3. The Future of the Church.

- It will be built up (by Jesus).

"...on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."

- Matthew 16:18

4. The Power of the Church.

- It will knock down the gates of Hades.
- It will overcome death.

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I Believe in... the Communion of the Saints

The word for communion is Koinonia.

It means to "have in common" or to "share".

What is it that we share?

1. We share the benefits of Christ.

"There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to one hope when you were called – 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

- Ephesians 4:4-6

2. We share in relationships.

"Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts."

- Acts 2:46

3. We share our resources.

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

- Hebrews 13:16

4. We share in suffering.

"I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death."

- Philippians 3:10

5. We share the responsibility of sharing the Gospel.

"I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ."

- Philemon 6

6. We will share in His glory.

"He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."

- 2 Thessalonians 2:14

The Saints? But I'm no Saint!

"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God in Corinth, together with all the saints throughout Achaia."

- 2 Corinthians 1:1

A saint is simply one who claims Christ.

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