

The One True Church and Its Mission

Passages: Acts 20:28; Rev 5:9–10; Jn 3:5; 10:1–18; 15:1–6; 20:22–23; 1 Cor 12:13; Gal 3:27; 1 Tim 3:15; Eph 2:18–19; Heb 12:22; Mt 18:17; Lk 10:16; 1 Pet 3:20–21; Lk 17:26–27; Jer 10:10; Deut 12:5, 11

Memory Verse

“On that day I will raise up the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, and repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old.” (Amos 9:11)

Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]	Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]	Good Work [Behavior]
1. The true church is the only church that offers salvation. 2. The true church must have the truth, the Holy Spirit, and signs and wonders. 3. The mission of the True Jesus Church is to correct fallen churches and guide the world into salvation.	1. God is truth. 2. God is Spirit.	Have a firm conviction that our church is the true church.

Overview

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- A. The Significance of the True Church
- B. The Qualifications of the True Church
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- 1. Do I Know Why I Believe in the True Church?
- 2. Testimony: How God Called Me to His True Church

Memory Verse

Conclusion: It is important to maintain a strong conviction in the fact that our church is the true church, established by our Lord to be the new apostolic church and to guide the world into salvation.

Spiritual Teachings

A. The Significance of the True Church

The Greek word used for “church” in the New Testament is *ekklēsia*, which means “an assembly that is called out.” The church has been called out by God, redeemed and sanctified through the precious blood of the Lord Jesus (Acts 20:28). In the Old Testament, people were circumcised in order to become the children of God (Gen 17:9–14). In the New Testament, people believed, repented, and baptized in the Lord in order to become a part of Christ’s body. But today, with so many different Christian denominations, what makes our own church distinct? Today, we will look at what makes the true church the only church that offers salvation.

The Spiritual Church of God

For some, the church is a place for social gatherings. Others believe that any church is acceptable, as long as their beliefs align. But according to the Bible, the church is the body of Christ. “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all” (Eph 4:4–6). This passage talks of many “ones”! There is only *one* body, and God has only *one* church, with *one* truth.

With the believers’ salvation at stake, Paul didn’t hesitate to condemn false teachings, saying, “But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed” (Gal 1:8). Even if he himself turned away from the gospel, he would also be condemned (Q&A, 120).¹ The significance of the church, therefore, lies in the truth that it preaches. Let’s look at a few other ways the Bible describes the significance of the church.

1. The church is the true vine in which the believers are branches. Believers must abide in the vine in order to bear fruit (Jn 15:1–6).
2. The church is the fold of the Lord. All believers will be in one flock and belong to one shepherd. Those who are in the fold are the Lord’s sheep and will have abundant life (Jn 10:1–18).
3. The church is the kingdom and house of God. The believers are therefore members of the God’s household and fellow citizens of the heavenly kingdom (1 Tim 3:15; Eph 2:18–19).
4. The church has the power to retain or forgive sins. To obey the church is to obey the Lord (Lk 10:16; Jn 20:22–23).
5. The church is the ark of the last days which will save all nations, so that we may enter the new heaven and new earth (1 Pet 3:20–21; Lk 17:26–27).

The Lord Jesus is both the head of the church and the Savior of its body (Eph 5:23). Its members have been called out of the world to walk on a journey of faith as a family (1 Cor 12:26), and to enjoy a special relationship with God. The church isn’t a place for socializing, or a place where the truth can be loosely interpreted according to one’s needs. It is the body of Christ, the ark of the last days. Just as Noah followed God’s exacting instructions, the true church must follow the qualifications set by the Bible.

B. The Qualifications of the True Church

The Bible defines three essential characteristics of a true and spiritual church, to set it apart from other secular organizations.

1. **It must be built on the foundation of the truth (Mt 16:18; Eph 2:19–20; 1 Tim 3:15).**
 - a. A false gospel cannot save humanity from sin (Gal 1:6–9; 2 Jn 9–11).
 - b. The true church must be built upon the teachings of Jesus Christ, the apostles (Mt 16:18),

¹ Q&A on the Basic Beliefs, (USA: True Jesus Church, 2000), p. 120.

and the prophets (Eph 2:19–20); it should not teach beyond what is written in the Bible (1 Cor 4:6).

- c. It must be faithful to the Bible and not follow the traditions of men, such as Christmas and Easter (cf. Mt 15:8–9; Rev 22:18–19).

2. It must have the abidance of the Holy Spirit (Eph 1:13; Gal 4:6; Rom 8:9).

- a. The church is the body of Christ and the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit (Eph 1:22–23; 1 Cor 3:16).
- b. The apostolic church was built by the Holy Spirit. Likewise, the true church of the last days was rebuilt by the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1–4; Joel 2:23, 28–29).
- c. Only the church with the Holy Spirit is sent by God and has the authority to forgive sins (Mt 16:18–19; Jn 20:21–23).
- d. The abidance of the Spirit is evidenced by the speaking of tongues (Acts 2:1–4; 10:44–47; Rom 8:26–27).

3. It is accompanied by signs and wonders.

- a. The Lord Jesus performed miracles to glorify the name of God, to give grace to the people, and to testify that He is Christ (Jn 3:1–2; 9:1–3; 10:24–25; 11:1–4; 20:30–31).
- b. God confirms His presence through the signs and wonders that accompany His workers (Mk 16:15–20; Acts 14:3; 1 Cor 2:4).

C. The True Jesus Church

Although we know the significance and qualifications of the true church, it is still difficult for anyone seeking after the truth to know which is the right church to go to. After all, there are hundreds of churches out there, and every church claims to save people. That is why it is important for us to understand why the True Jesus Church is the true church of the end days. This is the only way we can stand firm in our faith and remain in God’s house until the very end.

Why is our church called the True Jesus Church?

After disappearing, the Holy Spirit descended once again in China as the latter rain, and in 1918², the True Jesus Church was established. Today, the church is primarily an assembly for worship and should strive to defend the name of Jesus Christ. In light of this, the name “True Jesus Church” has profound meaning and significance.

1. “But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King” (Jer 10:10). The word “true” refers to God, for God is true (Rom 3:4). This shows that the church belongs to the true God.
2. “But you shall seek the place where the LORD your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name for His dwelling place; and there you shall go” (Deut 12:5). The true church should bear the precious name of Jesus, the name of God. Jesus Christ is also the head of the church, and the church is His body (Eph 5:23; 1:22–23; Col 1:18, 24). Having been purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ, the church belongs to Him and should therefore bear His name (Acts 20:28; Mt 16:18).
3. “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser” (Jn 15:1–5). Those who have been called by God make up the church, which is the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27).

D. The Mission of the True Church

² According to the Lunar calendar, this would have been the twentieth day of the eleventh month, 1917 (See Manna Issue #84, p. 2).

Historically, heresy and political powers distorted the gospel once entrusted to the saints. About twenty to thirty years after the ascension of Jesus Christ, some members began to desert the church for a different, distorted gospel of Christ (Gal 1:6–9; 2 Cor 11:4). Even Jude had to warn the saints to contend earnestly for the faith (Jude 3). Apostle John’s messages to the seven churches in the Book of Revelation tell us that the apostolic churches were degrading. The Holy Spirit finally stopped descending upon the church after the third century because it deviated too far from the truth.

God later revived His church, giving His workers the Holy Spirit and an understanding of the true gospel. They began preaching the truth of salvation from the heart of China, and signs and miracles from the Spirit confirmed the truth that the church preached. In accordance with God’s grace, the promised Holy Spirit had once again showered down to revive His church at the end times. God raised up the True Jesus Church to preach the way to salvation.

1. Correct the fallen churches.

With so many different denominations and offshoots of Christian beliefs in the world today, it is only natural that there are a large number of doctrines that are contrary to the Bible. Here are a few examples of existing doctrines in other churches that need to be rectified:

- a. Most churches preach that there is no correlation between water baptism and salvation. It is considered only a formality for joining a church with no connection to salvation. Many churches that do baptize do so in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. They may baptize either by the sprinkling of water or by full immersion, but facing upward.
- b. Instead of regarded as a sacrament, footwashing is widely regarded as a lesson of humility, or is seen simply as a Jewish custom, and therefore believed to be unrelated to salvation.
- c. It is common for other churches to use wine and pieces of leavened bread or biscuits for the Holy Communion. Also, while we understand that the unleavened bread and juice are spiritually transformed after consecration, there are a variety of beliefs regarding the sacrament, such as:
 - *Transubstantiation* (Catholic Church): After giving thanks, the bread and grape wine transform materially into the physical body and blood of the Lord Jesus.
 - *Consubstantiation* (Lutheran Church): The physical body and blood coexist with the bread and the grape wine.
 - *Symbolism* (Zwingli/Reformed Church): The bread and cup remain the same after giving thanks. They only symbolize the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ. They believe that the Lord Jesus could not have given His flesh and blood to His disciples to eat and drink since He was not yet crucified when He gave thanks for the bread and cup.
- d. Many churches believe that all believers automatically receive the Holy Spirit, and that speaking in tongues is only one of the gifts of the Spirit, not a sign of His presence.
- e. Most churches do not observe the Sabbath but attend church on Sundays, which is the resurrection day of Christ, because they believe that Sabbath observance is a commandment imposed only upon the Old Testament Jews. But we know that the apostles observed the Sabbath, and that the Lord did not come to abolish the Law, but to fulfill it (Mt 5:17–20).
- f. Christmas, Easter, and other festivities established by other churches are based on human traditions instead of the Bible. Knowing this, we do not celebrate them.

At present, many Christians, as well as many churches, are like the lost sheep of the house of Israel. They may be zealous for God, but they do not follow the truth found in the Bible. Therefore, it is our duty to spread the true message to them and pray that the Holy Spirit moves and leads them back to the same fold in the Lord (Jer 23:3–4; Jn 10:16).

2. Proclaim the gospel to every nation (Mk 16:15–16).

“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy” (2 Tim 3:1–5; cf. Ezek 7:5–9, 25–27). The Lord Jesus will come to judge all people (Jas 5:9; Mt 24:32–34), and yet the world is immoral, violent, and more corrupt than during Noah’s time, drunk with worldly pleasures and sinful acts. It is our obligation to preach to the world that the end is near.

3. Attend to members’ needs (Jn 21:15–17).

The church needs to raise up the faith of the members by strengthening its body through continual devotion to prayer, mutual encouragement, and study of the Scriptures. Let’s read Romans 12:10, 13–18.

Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, [...] distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

4. Transform into the perfect bride of Christ.

In preparing for the Lord’s second coming, the church needs to make herself ready. Besides preaching the gospel to the world, the church must also devote herself to the building and perfecting of its members, thus fulfilling the Lord’s entrusted mission. The true church has to be perfect and complete before the day of the Lord’s coming (Rev 21:1–2).

Check for Understanding

- 1. What significant aspect of our church makes it different from others?** The significance of our church lies in the truth that it preaches.
- 2. Name three ways the Bible describes the significance of the church.** The true vine; the fold or flock of the Lord; the kingdom of God; has the power to retain or forgive sins; the ark of the last days.
- 3. What are the qualifications of the true church?** It must be built on the foundation of the truth; must have the abidance of the Holy Spirit; and must be accompanied by signs and wonders.
- 4. Why is our church called the “True Jesus Church”?** The word “true” refers to the true God, for God is true; Jesus is the head of the church, which was purchased by His blood; and those who have been called by God make up the church, the body of Christ.
- 5. Name three important missions of the True Jesus Church.** Correct the fallen churches; proclaim the gospel to every nation; attend to members’ needs; transform into the perfect bride of Christ.

Life Application

1. Do I Know Why I Believe in the True Church?

More than 2,000 years after the Holy Spirit came pouring down on the Day of Pentecost and the church was established, there are so many Christian churches out there claiming to be right in terms of their understanding about the knowledge of the gospel. As a member of the True Jesus Church, we may know

the sacraments and the doctrines. But ask yourself: do I have the true conviction that what I believe is correct? This is vital to our faith, because our convictions influence our decisions, and in turn, affect our lives. There are three main convictions that we must hold. For each, ask yourself: Do I have these convictions? If not, am I striving to attain them?

- a. **First Conviction:** Our church is established by the Lord. The same Spirit that descended as the “early rain” and established the apostolic church (Acts 1:8; 2:1–13) has now descended as the “latter rain” and established the new church (Deut 11:14; Joel 2:23, 28–31).
- b. **Second Conviction:** Our church is the revived true church of the apostolic days. Evidence of the chosen church of God can be seen in three things: the presence of the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:9), the presence of wonders and miracles (Mk 16:17–20; Acts 14:3), and a truth that is in accordance with the Bible (Gal 1:6–9; Eph 2:19–20).
- c. **Third Conviction:** The true church must strive to fulfill the same conditions as in the days of the apostles (Amos 9:11). This means we must have:
 - The same Holy Spirit (Eph 4:4; 1 Jn 4:1–3).
 - The same doctrines (Eph 2:19–20; 4:4–5).
 - The same power (Acts 1:8; 5:12–16).
 - The same holiness (Acts 5:1–11, 25–29).
 - The same love (Acts 2:41–47; 4:32–37).

2. Testimony: How God Called Me to His True Church³

I was formerly a member of a church called the Twelve Disciples Church. My conversion to the True Jesus Church was an amazing event for which I will always be thankful.

DRIVEN OUT OF MY FORMER CHURCH

One Saturday in 1991, January 19th to be precise, the pastor of the Twelve Disciples Church told me that he wanted me to be in charge of the church in West Africa, and that meant that I would need some supernatural powers. He asked me to sleep under a cross that night, and he would wake me up at 2 a.m. to send me to the Densei River in the eastern part of Ghana to receive the “powers.” I slept very soundly that night. At 9 a.m. the following morning, I was awakened by the ringing of a bell. It was the bell calling all the members of the church to gather.

Much to my surprise and bafflement, the pastor ordered the elders of the church to drive me out of the premises in five minutes. When I asked for the reason, he explained that during the night, two angels appeared to him in a vision, tied him up, and flogged him. In fact, the garments he wore that morning had bloodstains on them. He said that the angels warned him not to touch me or have anything to do with me because God had prepared me to work as a minister in a certain true church in the town. At that time, I did not have the slightest inkling what this true church was about.

THE DREAM OF THE TRUE CHURCH

Later in the day, I visited my parents at their residence. It was a tense situation, as the pastor had created a high level of enmity between me and my parents. Nevertheless, I spent some time resting in their house. As I lay down in my parents’ house, I had a dream.

³ Daniel Awutey, “How God Called Me to His True Church”, *Manna Magazine* 52 (2007): 5, accessed October 21, 2019, <https://tjc.org/elib-single-item-display/?langid=1&itemid=10648&type=pub>.

I was taken to a place beyond my ability to describe. There was a very big throne, and someone was sitting on it. I could only see his back. A rainbow was around his head. Then I heard a strange voice from the throne, which was like the sound of many waters. I could not comprehend that language. Suddenly, I saw a dove coming out of the throne towards me. It put three separate rainbows on my head, waist and feet. I then saw myself on a very high mountain. I saw a very old man there, the ruler of the mountain, who spoke to me. His voice was like the sound of many waters, like the first voice I heard.

He had a staff and a scroll in his hand. He removed my shirt and put on a new white garment on me. He also fastened my waist with a yellow belt, and he gave me his pair of shoes to wear on my feet. He then handed me the staff and scroll that were in his hand and he ordered me to eat the scroll. As my mouth touched the scroll, I began to understand the sound that came out of his mouth. The ruler of the mountain then told me I had to go back to my town to look for the True Church.

As I turned to go, I saw a large billboard that had an inscription in French—“Véritable Jésus Église” (True Jesus Church) and “Samedi – Samedi – Samedi” (Saturday – Saturday – Saturday). The inscriptions were surrounded by shimmering stars. At that point, I woke up from the dream.

PART OF THE TRUE CHURCH

The next day, I went out to look for the True Jesus Church, and I actually found it. It looked exactly like the structure I had seen in my dream. Even the way the members behaved coincided with what I saw in the dream. Four months later, I was baptized in the name of Jesus into the true church.

During the baptism I saw that the water was full of blood. From the day of my baptism, my body started to heal itself from the effects of a serious accident I had many years earlier. One day in 1978, I had been walking in the jungle with my father, who was a tree cutter. In Ghana, they burn the trunk after the trees are cut down. While I was walking, I fell into a pit. Under the pit was a charcoal fire, which melted my feet and burned my lower body. I became unconscious and woke up three days later in the hospital.

At the time, the doctor said that they needed to cut off both of my legs because of the severe burns. But God touched the doctor’s heart to make an announcement for help. The President of Ghana visited me in the hospital and offered to pay all the medical bills. I spent three years in the hospital and my health was poor, but my legs were not amputated. The doctors told me I would have to live with four problems: severe migraines, epilepsy, blindness, and the inability to have children.

I suffered with all these problems until I was baptized in TJC. Now, many years later my body has healed completely, even though I still bear scars from the severe burns. I thank God for healing me and blessing me with four children.

Two weeks after the baptism, I had a dream in which I saw a hand carrying the words “ÉTERNEL” (eternal), and I heard a voice asking me to read what I saw. When I tried, I felt my tongue fall into my stomach. The voice then told me to repeat the word “Hallelujah.” As I did, I felt that my tongue rolled back into my mouth, and I started praying like the other members. I woke up from the dream and began to pray. I realized I was filled with the Holy Spirit and was praying in tongues.

I have been so joyful ever since, and I thank the Lord for revealing His true church to me. Now I'm a full-time worker and enjoy every minute of it. I no longer live for myself but for the Lord who saved me and gives hope for eternal life. Praise and thank God!

- Daniel Awutey, Hahoe, Ghana, Africa
Manna 52: Spiritual Renewal

Memory Verse

"On that day I will raise up the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, and repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old." (Amos 9:11)

Meaning:

God's covenant with David is that his descendants would always sit on his throne (2 Sam 7:12-16). On "that day," God will raise and restore the kingdom to its glory. Before the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, before the eternal rule of God's kingdom, His plan is to raise up His church. The Bible refers to the apostolic church as the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down. But in the end times, He will rebuild it. From this verse, we therefore understand that our mission is to rebuild the early apostolic church.

Conclusion

It is important to maintain a strong conviction in the fact that our church is the true church with a truth in accordance with the Bible, established by our Lord to be the new apostolic church and to guide the world into salvation. With this in mind, as the body of Christ, we can help our church grow into the perfect bride of Christ by building up its members in Christ and devoting ourselves to the truth that separates us from the other churches in the world.

Lesson 11 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. According to the memory verse, what is our mission as the church of the end times?
God's plan is to raise up His fallen church before the eternal rule of His kingdom; therefore, our mission is to rebuild the early apostolic church.
2. "But you shall seek the _____ where the LORD your God _____, out of all your tribes, to put His _____ for His _____ place; and there you shall go." (Deuteronomy 12:5)
place, chooses, name, dwelling
3. What are three characteristics of the true church?
The true church must be built on the foundation of the truth; the true church must have the abidance of the Holy Spirit; the true church is accompanied by many signs and wonders.
4. What three convictions do we need to hold?
 - a. *Our church is established by the Lord.*
 - b. *Our church is the revived church of the apostolic days, with a truth in accordance with the Bible.*
 - c. *The church must strive to meet the same conditions as in the days of the apostolic church.*
5. Read Romans 12:13–18. Which of these do you do? Which do you not? How can you improve in attending to your church members' needs?