

What was the 1st. Century Church like ?

Have you ever wondered what the early church was like, in the days when the New Testament was being compiled? Perhaps you have considered whether the many varied sects bear any resemblance to the church that Jesus founded.

The early churches met in houses and hired rooms. The members are the church - not the building. These groups of believers were called "churches of Christ." Every first day of the week¹ they assembled to 'break the bread' in memory of Jesus. This meeting was the centre of their worship. The symbolic sharing of an unleavened loaf and drinking from a cup of grape juice was accompanied by praying, singing, reading of the scriptures and mutual instruction².

These churches were self-governed (according to the Apostle's teaching). Men, with the qualifications given in the Bible, were chosen by the congregation to be its supervisors.

All members were encouraged to develop and fulfil their role, to the best of their ability, in the work and worship of the church. They zealously proclaimed the wonderful message of salvation through Jesus Christ. The only way of becoming a member was by believing that Jesus is the Son of God, repenting, and being immersed in water for their sins to be forgiven. This brought them into fellowship with God the Father, the Lord Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit. In that way, the Lord Jesus added them to his church.³

There are many churches of Christ which strive to follow the simple ways of the New Testament, not as a novelty, but because they believe that the original simplicity is the only true basis for unity, all division being the result of departing from New Testament Christianity, by substitution and innovation.

For more information about the early days of Christianity visit our web site and apply for our free course of studies entitled "Authentic Christianity" or write to us, stating your request, and giving your full postal address"⁴

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This Tract is distributed by:

1 In the Bible the first day of the week approximates our Sunday. It is from Saturday sunset to Sunday sunset. Genesis 1:5.
2 Romans 16:5, 16, 1 Corinthians 16:19, Mark 14:22-24, 1 Corinthians 10:16-17.
3 Titus 1:5-9, Acts 8:4, 37, 2:38,
Galatians 3:27, Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 2:47.
4 1 Thessalonians 5:21, Jude 3.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES :