

# The Remnant: The True Church

Principal Contributor: Peruce Ondieki

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We live in a time and age where we all long for a sense of belonging, a family we can gladly call our own. It is a longing that has been there since the creation of the universe and we can never run away from the fact that we are social beings and that no man is an island. Apart from that, we have a longing in our hearts that even mortal man cannot be able to satisfy. A desire to have a friend who knows us so well, understands our struggles and is ever willing and more than able to help us out, even when we think “You know what – I can’t do this”. Interestingly, this friend is a friend to everyone and His love for us brings us together and binds our hearts with cords of love that can never be broken. None of us who live in this time of history has met this friend whom we love dearly. His influence in our lives is seen in how we choose to live our lives, how we share His beliefs and values and how we long to let others know of this friend that we love so much. The Bible even tells us that He left all the riches of heaven and His throne to dwell amongst us and be familiar with our struggles, and – greatest of all – to die for me and you, sinners, whose end would have been eternal damnation had He not given up His life for us.

## **The source of Christian fellowship –**

I believe that this is what brings us together as Christians, a community of believers. It is Christ in us the Hope of Glory, who brings us together and makes us different from all the other people around us. The Bible tells us that:

*“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”*  
**Matthew 18:20.**

## **The dilemma –**

But there is a catch in our present-day society, for we find ourselves faced with the reality of deciding if we are actually in the right congregation/church. We ask ourselves whether a true church actually exists and whether it can be identified.

Conflicting voices from every quarter declare that they have the answer. Denominations, sects, and cults make strident claims based upon emotional interpretations of isolated Bible texts.

## **What not to look for –**

It is very important to recognize that no church can be proven superior because its members are without sin. People are people, and all are subject to the same frailties of human nature. Yet, it is also true that every Christian has access to the same mighty power

of God for overcoming those frailties. Therefore, any church today will necessarily be made up of individuals who are at varying levels of personal sanctification. The wheat and tares will still be mingled together, and no church will be made up entirely of perfect people.

Some feel that the distinctive name of the organization will set it apart as the right one. Obviously, this could be no accurate test, because the choice of a name would reveal nothing about the spiritual nature of that church. Such shallow claims only serve to discourage intelligent searchers after the truth.

### **Identifying God's church -**

It must be apparent to all that if God has a special church in the world today, He will reveal it clearly and explicitly in His holy Word. The information must be couched in language that will appeal to human logic and should consist of more than just vague generalities or insinuations.

So, we will start from the beginning:

- God identified His genuine followers in the early beginnings of Old Testament by their obedience to God.

#### ***Genesis 26:4, 5***

*4 And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;*

*5 Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.*

They obeyed him and kept his requirements, his commands, his decrees and his laws.

Because Abraham was faithful to Him, God desired to acquaint the nations of this world with a knowledge of the true God through the family (or church) of Abraham. Abraham's son, Isaac, passed God's blessing to his son Jacob. Jacob's 12 sons became the founders of the nation of Israel. Israel was the church of the Old Testament. God desired to reveal a knowledge of His glory to the world through His church, Israel.

- God described His people as holy and His treasured possession.

#### ***Deuteronomy 7:6, 9***

- In the new testament He tells his people in John 14:15, If you love Me, you will obey what I command

In both the Old and New Testaments, God identifies His followers as those who love Him and keep His commandments. Love always leads to obedience.

### **What clear identifying characteristics of the true church does God give?**

Revelation 12:17; 14:12

1. Those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus. The King James Version of the Bible uses the word "remnant" in Revelation 12:17 to picture God's true church. Some translations, such as the Revised Standard Version, say rest of her offspring. The word remnant literally means those who are left. In the setting of Revelation, the remnant are those who are left or remain faithful to God. In both the Old and New Testaments, from the beginning of time to the end of time, God has a group of people who lovingly obey Him by keeping His commandments. They are the faithful ones, the ones left. Like the New Testament church their allegiance to God's truth is uncompromising.

Revelation 19: 9,10 The true church has the gift of the Spirit of prophecy to guide it.

1 Timothy 3:15

2. It is a church built on truth. The New Testament church is described by Paul as the church of the living God, the pillar and the foundation of truth. The New Testament church is based on the word or truth "of God". In Matthew 16, verse 18, Jesus promised, "*I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it*" (NKJV). Christ has a church, an organized group of faithful, obedient believers.

Revelation 14:6

3. God's last-day church, preaching His final message, must be an international movement proclaiming His truth to the world. To every nation, tribe, language and people

Revelation 14:6

4. The eternal gospel is what the child is called to proclaim. The gospel is the good news that Jesus has forgiven our sins, that through His death we can become the children of God, and that through His power we can live transformed, obedient lives.

Revelation 14:7

5. The true church teaches we are living in the judgment hour preliminary to the coming of Christ. It has an urgent message for the world. It is an Adventist Church. It teaches that Christ came once and that He is coming again.

#### Revelation 14:7

6. Calls and reminds people and also itself to Fear God and Give Him glory. To give glory to God is to honor Him in all that we do, including eating and drinking. It is a message of obedience to God's physical and moral laws. To worship Him who made the heavens and to worship on the Bible Sabbath as a memorial of creation (***Revelation 4:11; Exodus 20:8-11***). It is an invitation to return to the Bible Sabbath of the seventh day, Saturday.

#### Revelation 14:8?

7. It announces that Babylon is fallen. Babylon is a symbol of religious confusion. Wine is a symbol of false doctrine that confuses the judgment. God's last-day message calls us from falsehood to truth.

#### Revelation 14:9

8. Warns the world against worshipping beast and its image.

#### Revelation 14:12

9. Has the faith of Jesus Obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus. God calls us from the false to the true. He graciously invites us to worship the Creator on the seventh-day Sabbath as a sign of our allegiance to Him.

#### Revelation 14:13

10. The true church teaches the truth about death. It clearly reveals that death is a peaceful rest until Jesus returns (***John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17; 1 Corinthians 15:51-54***).

### Final thoughts

I would urge you not to make a decision to accept the truth just because it has convinced you intellectually. No one should join the church, which is the body of Christ, unless they have been drawn spiritually into a relationship with Jesus.

Behind the fantastic truth of the true church I want you to see the Lamb of God dying on the cross in your place. He hangs there because of sin—because someone did not love Him enough to obey Him. "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15).

We can't obey Him until we have knelt, broken-hearted because of our sin, and accepted Him as Lord and Savior. Love for Him provides both the motive and the power to fulfill His Word. If you haven't accepted Him already, make that your first decision. Then under the

strength of that new love relationship follow Him into service as a member of the true church.