

There is no governing body, no convention or hierarchy on earth for the Church of Christ. Jesus sits upon His throne in heaven as head of the church, and each congregation answers only to Him. The first century churches were organized with a body of men as servants within each congregation. The Scriptures refer to them as:

Bishops, Elders, Presbyters, or Shepherds, all referring to the same group. Familiarize yourself with what the Bible says about these men in passages like (1 Timothy 3; Titus 1; Acts 20; and 1 Peter 5). The New Plymouth congregation does not have Elders at the moment but there are men who are growing into the qualities that will one day take up that office.

What we Offer:

It is our pleasure to bring to you a place and time for worship, Bible study, fellowship and family atmosphere where, you will have a sense of belonging and community with those who have made a decision to obey and faithfully follow Jesus.

A Final Word:

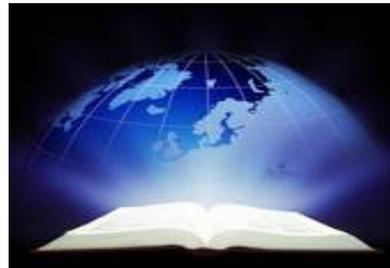
The most distressing problems in our society result from a lack of purpose in life. Many people still suffer as if there is no way to find purpose. Others search but do not find. Because of the life of Jesus Christ the riddle of purpose and existence is answered. The New Plymouth Church family invites you to explore the simple, exciting, purpose filled life that Christ and His Word, the Bible, has to offer.

Meeting Times:

Sunday Worship 10am.

Sunday Bible Study 11:15am.

Wednesday Night Bible study 6:30pm.



New Plymouth Church of Christ

(Non-Denominational)

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Are you



Confused



By



Christianity Today?





'I just do not understand why there are so many different churches out there and why they teach so many different teachings and practices. They all have the same Bible –shouldn't they all be of the same mind and teach the same things?'

If you have had thoughts along these lines you are not alone. Ever since man began to divide the followers of Christ under various creeds and practices there have been many who have questioned the practice of division. When early Christians began to divide themselves under the names of men the apostle Paul wrote, *"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing and that there be no division among you; but that you all be perfectly joined together in the same mind and the same judgment,"* (1 Corinthians 1:10).

Before leaving the earth Jesus prayed to the Father, *"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me."* (John 17:20-21).

Division is forbidden and unity desired for the followers of Christ-so why so much division?

Introducing the New Plymouth Church of Christ

"1st Century Christianity in the 21st Century"

A New "Old" Look At Christianity

At the New Plymouth Church of Christ, we believe that division occurred when men began to cling more to tradition and opinion rather than to the cross of Christ. As a result, we have dedicated ourselves to a return to the bible only and rejecting anything that would lead to division and discord. The approach adopted and effective is simply to "Do things in Bible ways, and call things by Bible names." Though this approach is novel to many in the religious world it is certainly nothing new.

WHAT WE TEACH:

Most all churches have a guide book or a creed book of some sort to present their individual body of teachings or their slant on theology. You will not find such in the **Church of Christ**. The only book we use to guide us in all spiritual matters is the **Bible**. By inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Paul, the apostle of Christ, wrote, *"All Scripture is breathed*

out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work," (2 Timothy 3:16,17). In another place he wrote, *"If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord,"* (1 Corinthians 14:37). The apostle Peter wrote of God's blessed gift saying, *"His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,"* (2 Peter 1:3). So, what we have in the Bible is the sum total of what God wants revealed to man today. After the Bible, there is nothing else revealed from God. We honor it, and let it dictate our worship, our organization, and our daily lives.

A LITTLE ABOUT ORGANIZATION:

Take a look at the teachings and examples found in the New Testament concerning church organization. We follow these teachings by organizing ourselves like the churches in the first century were organized. Jesus built one church, (Matthew 16:18, Acts 2). Yet, in each city there were different congregations of that church. Each was self-governed. The same is true today. You may see a church of Christ here, one in Palmerston North, another in Christchurch, and still another in Auckland. Though we are tied to one another in spirit and commitment in the Kingdom of Christ, each church is independent and autonomous.