

baptism the door into their particular institutions. Baptism is a very important and sacred Christian rite, but it is a ceremonial ordinance which one person can perform upon another. It was instituted for **CHURCH MEMBERS**: those who already have been born of the Spirit of God. As John Wesley clearly expresses it, "It is but an outward testimony to an inward work."

Christ himself is the door of entrance into the **NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH**, and all who obtain access through Him are saved. This is a **DOOR** that **NO MAN** can open and **NO MAN** can shut. (Rev. 3: 7). The condition of entering through this straight gate and narrow door is a deep, thorough repentance and living faith in Christ our Saviour.

On this question of **CHURCH MEMBERSHIP** the united testimony of the **NEW TESTAMENT** scriptures is decisive and beyond all controversy.

"But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased Him," (I Cor. 12:18). This body is the **CHURCH**. That is what Paul is treating in this chapter: **THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH**. ...And how do we become members of this institution?

Here is the answer: "But now hath God set the members **EVERY ONE OF THEM** in the **BODY**," **THE CHURCH**. You see He didn't leave a single one to be taken in by the preacher. This modern process of ministers taking members into the Church is absolutely without scriptural authority. There is no example anywhere in the New Testament where any of the Apostles or primitive ministers attempted to take members into **THE CHURCH**.

But how does God do this? The answer is found in I Cor. 12:13: "For by one spirit are we all boptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we are bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one spirit." "That which is born of the Spirit is Spirit." (John 3:6) In the work of regeneration God through the **HOLY SPIRIT** baptizes or inducts us into His divine **CHURCH**.

It follows then, that all who are **CONVERTED, RE-GENERATED** by the Spirit of God are **MEMBERS** of the **NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH**.

In the second chapter of Acts we read that following the mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the original one hundred and twenty gathered in that upper room, "There were added unto them about three thousand souls." And all who thus received the word "Were baptized."

From this language some have inferred that the Apostles, through the rite of baptism added these people to the Church; but this is wrong. In verse 47 of this same chapter it is positively stated how they were added. "And the **LORD ADDED** to the church daily such as should be saved." This is so definite and clear that there is no appeal from it. I was not the Apostles and Ministers who added the members. **THE LORD DID THAT** the moment they were saved; the very mament that **BY FAITH**, they appropriated the blessing of salvation through **JESUS CHRIST**. After they were thus added through sound conversion, they received Baptism at the Apostles' hands. These clear texts, facts and truths establish two definite points which I wish to emphasize.

1. Since people become members of the **NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH** through the work of conversion or regeneration, then any church that conversion does not constitute one a member of **CANNOT BE** identical with the **NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH**. Any institution on earth that salvation does not constitute one a member of, is not **THE TRUE CHURCH OF GOD**.

2. Now it follows that since salvation constitutes us members of the Church, all who are converted are its members. Being the Body of Christ it must include all the members of that body. It must include every **BLOOD WASHED ONE**. This being true, any church that does not recognize in its membership all the converted people on earth, every true Christian, **CANNOT BE** the True New Testament Church of God.

Let us now consider the class book or church record.

The title of the book in which the names of all the members of the Church are written is found in