

OUR RELATIONSHIPS TO CHRIST

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Our relationship to Jesus Christ takes many forms at the same time. Consider a few:

Disciple - "*If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free*" (John 8:31-32). A disciple is a learner, one who follows and listens in order to learn. The Christian is a disciple of Jesus Christ, patterning himself after the teacher in every aspect.

Servant - "*...knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ*" (Colossians 3:24). Jesus is our Master, possessing all authority in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18). We

(Romans 6:3; 1 Corinthians 12:13). Those who believe and have been baptized are the saved who make up the one church (Mark 16:16). These baptized believers were simply called Christians (Acts 11:26).

Divine Name, Organization, and Work – The name by which the church is identified can be found among those given in the word of God (Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 1:2). The organization of elders and deacons among the saints is found in churches on the local level (Philippians 1:1). There is no universal organization (pope, headquarters, council) revealed in the Bible for the church. The work God gave the church encompasses evangelism of the lost, edifying the saints, and benevolence toward needy saints (1 Thessalonians 1:8; Ephesians 4:15-16; Acts 4:34-35). Worship is rendered through partaking of the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7), singing (Colossians 3:16), praying (Acts 2:42), giving (1 Corinthians 16:1-2), and preaching/teaching (Act 2:42).
