

# UNTO THE END

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“BUT HE THAT SHALL ENDURE UNTO THE END, THE SAME SHALL  
BE SAVED” (MTH. 24:13)

## Positive ID: The Body of Christ

By Bro. Jim

There is a term used in the United States of America called Positive Identification or Positive ID for short. The dictionary defines Positive ID as: Evidence proving you are who you say you are. It is used in most cases to prevent fraud. This is important in a wicked sinful world full of counterfeits, liars, swindlers, and those that operate in general chicanery. Positive ID is a system that has been set up to protect the “innocent” from those that have deceitful wicked intentions. Just as with most everything, the Church or Body of Christ also has a real and a counterfeit. In this issue of Unto the End we will use Positive ID to help properly identify the true Body of Christ. We will be using the final authority on all issues spiritual, the Holy Bible, God’s preserved Word for all generations. It is my hope that you will use the scriptures listed herein and compare the identification of the true Church with where you are currently attending. You should know if you are in the real Body of Christ or one of the many cleverly crafted counterfeits. Remember, there is only ONE Body. Let’s turn to scriptures and establish this as our baseline. From there we will let the Word of God properly identify the characteristics of that ONE Body. Amen.

**“I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one**

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**body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”**

**Eph. 4:1-6.**

**“For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.” Ro. 12:4-5.**

Clearly the Bible tells us here that there is only ONE Body of Christ, also known as The Church (Col. 1:24). Someone once told me there will be “many churches in heaven”. But this is a lie because there are not “many churches” but rather, only ONE true church. I will concede that there are many “churches” if you want to count the counterfeit ones but as far as the true Body of Christ, there is only ONE. Now that this simple truth has been established, let’s use the Bible to show us the evidence (Positive Identification) of what constitutes this one true Church. Amen.

**“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”**

**Jn. 3:3.**

**“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”**

**Jn. 3:5.**

**“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.” 1 Cor. 12:13.**

**“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:” Jn. 1:12.**

**“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” Ro. 8:14.**

The scriptures above establish a profound yet simple foundational truth (and if you are a Lutheran, Methodist, or Presbyterian this may come as a shock to you); namely, that just attending a church and filling out a membership card DOES NOT MEAN YOU ARE IN THE FAMILY OF GOD. There is not ONE place in the Bible that says you are a Christian because you attend weekly services or fill out a membership card. In fact the bible does not EVER tell anybody to fill out membership cards. Membership cards are an invention of man. God NEVER told man to do this. For the record, your “membership card” is filled out when you are born again. Unless you have been born again, you are NOT in the Kingdom of God. One of the first identifiers that a person is in the true Body of Christ is that he or she has been born again. Once a person is born again he or she is to be baptized. Baptism is for the BELIEVER not an infant.

**“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” Ro. 6:4.**

Baptism is a burial of the old man. When a person is born again the old person dies and all things become new (2Cor. 5:17). What do you do with a dead person? The answer: you bury him/her. Water baptism is burial of the old, dead man. Of course you can now see the folly of infant baptism. A baby doesn't understand sin, the need for a savior, etc. An infant does not comprehend heaven, hell, etc. An infant does not consciously repent of sins, turning to Jesus Christ as Saviour etc. Since water baptism is the burial of the old man that has died (via being born again) baptizing an infant is WORTHLESS. There is NOT ONE account of a baby being baptized in the Bible. All those that were baptized in the Bible were people who had heard the word preached, been convicted of their sinful life, saw Jesus as the Way and cried out to Him. Infants cannot do any of this; they don't even know their own name for crying in the night. But I digress. Born again believers that have been baptized, burying the old man are the members of the true Body of Jesus Christ. Let us continue...

**“Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.” Ac. 8:14-17.**

**“And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto the, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.” Ac. 19:1-6.**

We see another aspect of the true Body of Christ: baptism of the Holy Ghost. Most “churches” today don’t believe in this anymore. They say you get this when you are born again. If this were true, why did Paul ask the DISCIPLES here if they had received the Holy Ghost SINCE they believed? Why did Peter and John have to go to Samaria and lay hands on born again believers for them to receive the Holy Ghost? One could receive the gift of the Holy Ghost upon the point of being saved as in Cornelius’ household in Acts chapter ten for sure, but in their case it was clear they had received this gift right away as they were speaking in tongues. In the case of Cornelius’ household, they heard, believed, were filled with the Holy Ghost (Holy Ghost baptism) and THEN baptized in water (Act. 10). But in EVERY case we see the same pattern: hear the word of God, repent, be born again, and then water and Holy Ghost baptism. Does this happen in YOUR church? Or is it made up of a bunch of dead to the neck up people who have NO born again experience, only filling out of a membership card and good attendance? If the latter describes where you go, you are NOT in the true Body of Christ. Positive ID bears this out!

So far we have seen that a person is in the true Body of Christ or Church via being born again. We have also seen the necessity of water baptism and Holy Ghost baptism. Let us continue to look at the Word of God and establish our Positive ID of the Body of Christ. Amen.

**“And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.” Mk. 16:17-18.**

This scripture is so powerful and direct! These are SIGNS that FOLLOW BELIEVERS. If you and your “church” do not have these signs either a) call God a liar or b) admit you are NOT IN THE TRUE BODY OF CHRIST. You have only two real options. Do these signs follow those you go to church with? They followed the brothers and sisters in the Bible and they follow those that believe today also. Why? Because GOD SAID THESE SIGNS WOULD FOLLOW THEM THAT BELIEVE. Amen. Moving on...

**“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:” Eph. 4:11-13.**

**“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:”  
1 Cor. 12:7-10.**

So we see that Jesus Christ gave gifts to those in His body. He gave gifts such as Prophets, Pastors, tongues, working of miracles. Do the brothers and sisters you go to church with exhibit these gifts? Do you have prophets in your midst? How about workers of miracles or those that speak in tongues, or those that have the gift of healing? NO YOU DON’T! You don’t because you “don’t believe in the gifts” because they “went out in Bible Times”. What in the world is “Bible Times”? When did it end? How did the Christians who were alive when “Bible Times” and the gifts “ended” know they ended?

Did God write in big cloud letters: ATTENTION CHRISTIANS ON EARTH: BIBLE TIMES IS NOW OFFICIALLY OVER. IM SORRY, BUT THOSE OF YOU WHO HAD GIFTS YESTERDAY, YOU DON'T HAVE THEM TODAY NOR WILL YOU FROM THIS DAY FORTH...give me a break. That is pathetic. Once again, if where you are going to church does not have any of the gifts listed above, then either call God a liar, or just admit you are not in the true Body of Christ. For the record, the only gift you probably have in your midst is pastor with a bunch of spectators ala Catholic Church. But there is not calling of God called Spectator. EVERY brother and sister is supposed to have at least one gift. In the body of Christ, they do. In false churches, they don't. And one of the reasons you don't is you don't believe in the baptism of the Holy Ghost already talked about. Thank God for Positive Identification using the Word of God! Continuing on...

**“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,” Ac. 2:41-46.**

**“Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, And laid them down at the apostles’ feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.” Ac. 4:34-35.**

Here is more Positive ID of the true Body of Christ! The brothers and sisters considered the things they owned not to be just their own, but to belong to all the brethren in the Church. They had all things common. There was no selfishness. My house is your house. My car is your car. If I have three cars and only need two and you don't have any and need one, I give you one of my cars. “Nobody does that” you yell. Well, you're right; nobody probably does this where YOU go to church. But I've seen this done in the Body of Christ on more than one account in the past ten years. Praise the Lord. And for the record, Jesus Christ said it would be this way:

**“Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee. And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God’s sake. Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting.” Lk. 18:28-30.**

Did you catch that? Go back and read this again please. Jesus said if you leave houses, family, goods for the kingdom of God's sake you will receive two things: manifold more houses, family, goods in this present life and then also, in the life to come, everlasting life. Now, concerning the “manifold more in this present time” what do you think this is talking about? Was He mad? Was He joking? Was he just saying something to say something? No! The manifold more houses are the houses of the brethren. The manifold more fathers and mothers and sisters and brothers are the brethren in the Body of Christ. That is what you saw taking place in the scriptures from Acts listed above. They had ALL THINGS COMMON. Looks like the gospel of Jesus is more like socialism than capitalism doesn't it? “Blasphemy!!!!” you scream. Well, read it for yourself. It is the truth. And how and why do the brethren consider their things not just their own, but to belong to all brethren? How and why do the brethren receive fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, and children in the faith AFTER LEAVING NATURAL FATHERS, MOTHERS, SISTERS, BROTHERS, AND CHILDREN? This is done through love of the brotherhood; another Positive ID of the TRUE Church. Love of the brethren is

the crux of the New Testament Church; greater love for the brethren than love of natural family. The entire NT talks greatly about how to get along with, live with, dwell with, and operate with the FAMILY of God much more than natural family. In fact Jesus came to bring a sword and on His account natural family would be divided and a man's enemies would be those of his own household (Mth. 10: 34-37). But not so among brethren:

**“Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.” 1Jn. 3:13-14.**

**“Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.” 1Jn. 3:15.**

**“Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?” 1Jn. 3:16-17.**

**“My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.” 1Jn. 3:18.**

**“If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.”  
1 Jn. 4:20-21.**

Notice the wording here; it's all about loving the BRETHREN and dying for the BRETHREN, and giving to the BRETHREN. That's what they did in Acts in the aforementioned scriptures. That's what being born again into a new family the Body of Christ is all about. Is this how it is where YOU go to church? Hopefully through the use of Positive Identification you have your answer. Amen.

In summary, we have seen that by using Positive Identification, we can see what is real and what is counterfeit. By using the Holy Scriptures we can give Positive ID to the true Body of Christ. There is a true Church and many counterfeits. Where do you go to church? There is ONE Church or Body of Christ. A person becomes part of this body when he or she is born again. When one is born again he or she is birthed into a new family, the family of God. In this family there are diverse gifts for the perfecting of the saints. In this family the members love one another, have all things common, and are willing to die for one another. Where you go to church, are you a member because of a membership card? This is not scriptural. Do they preach one must be born again? Jesus said you must be born again. Do they preach the laying on of hands to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost? They did in the Bible. Where you go to church are there diverse gifts? The true Church has many members with diverse gifts for the perfecting of the saints and edifying of the Body. Where you go to church, are there prophets? Are there workers of miracles? Are there diverse tongues? Are there those with gifts of healing? There is in the TRUE Body of Christ. In the true Church the members love one another and have all things common. They love each other and give pre-eminence to one another above natural family. In the true Church they are willing to die for one another. Is it like this where YOU go to church? Through Positive Identification and the Bible you should know right now, if you are honest, if you are in the TRUE Body of Christ or in a counterfeit. If you are in a counterfeit “church” God says for His people to come out of her my people (Rev. 18:4). Are you in His Body or are you in “her”? You should know by now. I pray you are honest and harden not your heart to this message. I pray if you are in “her” you come out that you be not a partaker of her sins. Thus saith the Lord. Amen and Amen.

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