What Church Does God Recommend?

Intro: Denominationalism has caused confusion among many. It has caused untold numbers to grope in darkness and walk through life without ever knowing the truth. Some souls will ask advice: “What church do you recommend?” Some ask sincerely because they are confused. However, we should seek to know what God says on the subject. God recommends the church that follows the pattern set forth in the New Testament. Lay the blueprint next to the various religious groups and accept the one that follows the pattern.

I. The Church with the God Appointed Head

A. Christ is the God appointed head:
   1. Eph. 1:22-23 “And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”
   2. Col. 1:18 “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”

B. He is the only one who meets the divine standard.
   1. God in the flesh:
      a. Mat. 1:23 “Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”
      b. Phi. 2:6-9 “Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:”
      c. 1 Tim. 3:16 “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”
   2. Sinless and pure; Heb. 4:15 “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”
   3. Paid the ransom for the church; Acts 20:28 “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”
   4. Victorious over death; Rev. 1:18 “I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.”

C. As head He holds the God appointed position:
   1. Founder of the church; Mat. 16:18 “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”
   2. The foundation of the church; 1 Cor. 3:11 “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”
   3. Savior of the church; Eph. 5:23 “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.”
   4. Authority over the church; Mat. 28:18 “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”
   5. Preeminence in all things; Col. 1:18 “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”
II. THE CHURCH WITH THE CHRIST EXALTING NAME

A. Some claim there is nothing in a name.
1. Will you accept a check with just any name on it?
2. Pro. 22:1 “A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold.”
3. Only one name saves; Acts 4:12 “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

B. The body wears the name of the head.
1. A body does not have a different name than its head.
2. This is true of Christ’s physical body and also His spiritual body.
3. Thus the church wears the name of Christ—church of Christ.

C. We are warned about human names; 1 Cor. 1:10-13 “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. 11For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. 12Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. 13Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?”

III. THE CHURCH THAT RESPECTS GOD’S WORD

A. The New Testament church did not have creeds, disciplines, and doctrines of men; Acts 2:42 “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

B. We must do everything according to the authority of Christ.
1. Col. 3:17 “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”
2. Mat. 21:23-27 “And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority? 24And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things. 25The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him? 26But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet. 27And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.”
3. Doing everything He authorizes
   a. Doing only those things He authorizes
   b. Omitting everything He does not authorize.

C. The Bible is our sufficient rule:
1. 2 Tim. 3:16-17 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”
2. 2 Pet. 1:3-4 “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

Conclusion: Christ is going to save His church (Eph. 5:23 “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body”). You must be a member of the church God recommends if you want to be saved.