

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

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THOSE OUTSIDE THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

John Edwards

A question unsettled in the minds of many is: “Must one be a member of the church of Christ to be saved?” What is the condition of those outside the church of the Lord?

WITHOUT CHRIST. There is no way you can have Christ without the church. As a builder and building (Mt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 3:9), husband and wife (Rom. 7:1-4; 2 Cor. 11:2), head and body (Eph. 1:21-23; Col. 1:18), house and foundation (Heb. 3:6; 1 Cor. 3:11), Christ and the church go together (Eph. 5:32). You can’t be in Christ and not be in the church of Christ, for what puts you in Christ puts you in the church (Gal. 3:27; 1 Cor. 12:13; Col. 1:24). Thus, anything that is said to be in Christ is not found outside the church of Christ: Redemption (Rom. 3:24), sanctification (1 Cor. 1:2), liberty (Gal. 2:4), all spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3), an inheritance (Eph. 1:11), reconciliation (Eph. 2:13), the hope and promise of eternal life (2 Tim. 1:1; Titus 1:2; 1 Jn. 5:11), salvation (2 Tim. 2:10), and on it goes. If you are outside the church of Christ, then you are without Christ!

WITHOUT THE BLOOD. The blood flows through the

body, and the life is in the blood. *“For the life of the flesh is in the blood...”* (Lev. 17:11). Cut off the blood supply to any part of the body and it will die! The same is true of the Lord’s body, the church (Eph. 1:22-23). Ephesians 2:13 and 16 connect the blood of Christ with the body of Christ. What puts you in Christ and the body (the church) brings you into contact with the blood. Jesus shed His blood in His death (Jn. 19:33-34), and we are *“baptized into his death”* (Rom. 6:3-4). So it is in the church that we avail ourselves of the benefits of the blood! There are many things made possible by the blood of Christ: Justification (Rom. 5:9), redemption (Eph. 1:7), reconciliation (Eph. 2:13), the forgiveness of sins (Col. 1:14), peace (Col. 1:20), sanctification (Heb. 13:12), and much more. If you are outside the church of Christ, then you are without the blood supply!

WITHOUT THE SPIRIT. The church is the temple of God (1 Cor. 3:16-17; 2 Cor. 6:16; Eph. 2:21), and the Spirit dwells in the temple (1 Cor. 3:16). Jesus said, *“It is the spirit that quickeneth...”* (Jn. 6:63). To be *“quickeneth”* is to be made alive (Eph. 2:1, 5). Thus, those outside the church of Christ, the body of Christ, are not alive, but dead! Paul said, *“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children*

of God” (Rom. 8:16). Therefore, those outside the church of God are not the children of God. The church is *“the household of God”* (Eph. 2:19), and all of God’s children are in His household! If you are outside the church of Christ, have you realized what you are without?

We plead with you to gladly receive the word and be baptized, that the Lord may add you to His church (Acts 2:38, 41, 47). Will you do it today (Heb. 3:13)?

GOSPEL MEETING with Ron Halbrook OCT. 28 - NOV. 3

Topics:

**Legalizing Sin does not
Change God’s truth
The Truth About Modest
Dress
The Truth About Abortion
The Truth About
Homosexuality
The Truth About
Transgender
The Truth About Social
Media
The Threat of Pornography
Freely Received, Freely
Give**

LOVE FOR GOD'S WORD MANIFESTED

Nicolas Edwards

Love must be proven (2 Cor. 8:8, 24). Love must involve action (1 Jn. 3:18). An unproven, inactive love is really no love at all! Too many have a professed love for the word of God, without proof or action. They do not love it! The Psalmist said, "O how love I thy law" (Ps. 119:97). This he manifested!

HE DESIRED TO BE TAUGHT IT. His plea was "teach me" (Ps. 119:12, 26, 33). May our plea and desire be "Order my steps in thy word" (Ps. 119:133).

HE CHOSE IT. "I have chosen the way of truth" (Ps. 119:30). This involved judgment laying, testimony sticking, and commandment running (Ps. 119:30-32). The word of God is truth (Jn. 17:17). Anything other than it is error. What is your choice?

HE SOUGHT IT. "For I am thine, save me; for I have sought thy precepts" (Ps. 119:94). Are you seeking diligently (Prov.

2:1-6) or are you wicked (Ps. 119:155)?

HE BELIEVED IT. "...I have believed thy commandments" (Ps. 119:66). Do you? (Rom. 10:17; Mk. 16:15-16).

HE HID IT IN HIS HEART. "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Ps. 119:11).

HE MEDITATED IN IT. "O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day" (Ps. 119:97). What is continually before your mind all the day?

HE RESPECTED IT. "Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe: and I will have respect unto thy statutes continually" (Ps. 119:117). This respect was twofold: afraid of it (Ps. 119:120) and in awe of it (Ps. 119:161). This respect prevents us from violating it and motivates us to do what it says!

HE DELIGHTED IN IT. "Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counsellors" (Ps. 119:24). What pleases you? Where do you go for counsel?

HE KEPT IT. Psalm 119:22,

33-34, 44, 55-57, 67, 69, 88, 100, 106, 115, 145-146, 166-168. He delayed not (Ps. 119:59-60), inclined his heart (Ps. 119:112), and refrained his feet (Ps. 119:101). This he did with his whole heart continually (Ps. 119:69, 44). He was a companion of such (Ps. 119:63).

HE PROPERLY VALUED IT. "The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver" (Ps. 119:72). "Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold" (Ps. 119:127)

HE DECLARED IT. "With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth" (Ps. 119:13). "My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness" (Ps. 119:172).

Can you say, "O how love I thy law!"? You can, if you are doing these things. As a matter of fact, those doing these things don't have to say it. It is manifested in their lives. In the same way, those not doing these things are daily expressing, in their lives, O how I do not love thy law!

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