The True Church of God

What distinguishes a true church of God in this world from that which is false? Most people in the United Kingdom think a 'proper church' is a particular type of building with a tower or spire, stained glass windows, religious artefacts and a minister dressed in robes and wearing a 'dog-collar' shirt. They assume a true church must be one of a recognised denomination from which they derive their 'spiritual authority'.

But a true church, in the Biblical sense of Acts2 and all the epistles, is an assembly of God's saints, people called out of the spiritual darkness of this world by the Holy Spirit, set apart for the worship and service of God. It is where the Biblical gospel of God's free and sovereign grace in Christ is preached and taught irrespective of the building or denomination. It is the '*house and temple of God*' (1Tim3:15; 1Cor3:16). When God's people meet together in the name of Christ, trusting his blood and righteousness for their 'covering' from the wrath of God against their sin, depending on his intercession, his mediation, between the unknowable God and man and drawing near to God by faith in him, God's Holy Spirit dwells with them. That local assembly is "*a habitation of God through the Spirit*" (Eph2:22).

Believer, if you are able physically to assemble with such a company of the Lord's people when they meet for worship then you ought to make every effort to do so. Scripture exhorts believers not to forsake the assembling of themselves together (Heb10:25). Coals burn well when they are close together in the fire grate, but they soon dwindle and go cold when alone on the hearth.

But in these days there are many true believers who find themselves isolated from a true local church; they are '*strangers scattered* …. (albeit)… *elect according to the foreknowledge of God*..' (1Pet1:1,2). How can they assemble with a true church of God? The temptation is to assemble with the least bad of a bad bunch of false churches but that is not the answer. Would you eat at a restaurant that you suspect of serving food that will give you food poisoning? Of course not, so why would you subject your soul to spiritual deception and half truths from places masquerading as the church of Christ? Remember it takes only one drop of cyanide to render an otherwise pure glass of water deadly poison.

If you are not able to attend a true church physically and relocation to be near one seems impossible (though nothing is impossible with God), well, God has made provision for your situation via the internet and livestreams. He really does feed the woman (his church) in her wilderness isolation from this world (Rev12:6,14). You say that's all well and good but you can't have face-to-face fellowship via church livestreams and that is true, but you can communicate with brethren via email, social media, even video conversations. Make the effort to engage in regular contact via these means.

AJ

You Shall Know the Truth - John8:32

There are many truths that are not vital and essential to salvation. There are many truths we can know and not be saved. It is **The Truth** which saves. The Lord Jesus Christ is **The Truth**. The whole testimony of God concerning Christ is **The Truth**. The work of the Holy Spirit in the heart is to work in us **The Truth**. The knowledge of **The Truth** may be small at first, but it will grow, and by it we will be fully instructed in the way of salvation.

Milton Howard

Biblical Gospel Church

Preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ - Ephesians 3:8

www.biblicalgospelchurch.org

Meeting at:

Burton Community Centre

93 Sandy Plot

BH23 7NH

If you can't get to our meeting you can watch us LIVE via the internet at:

YouTube.com/@biblicalgospelchurch

Sunday 15th November 2026

10:30 am (GMT) Service

Acts 2:36-47

"One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism"

Traditional worship with hymns, prayer, Bible readings and a sermon based on a passage of the Bible

Listen to sermons by sovereign grace preachers at

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Psalm 133

248 to 478 (Lubeck) *C Wesley*

1 Jesus, Lord, we look to thee;
Let us in thy name agree;
Show thyself the Prince of Peace;
Bid all jars for ever cease.

2 By thy reconciling love,
Every stumbling-block remove;
Each to each unite, endear;
Come and spread thy banner here.

3 Make us of one heart and mind,
Courteous, pitiful, and kind;
Lowly, meek, in thought and word,
Altogether like our Lord.

4 Let us each for other care;
Each another's burdens bear;
To thy church the pattern give;
Show how true believers live.

5 Let us then with joy remove
To thy family above;
On the wings of angels fly;
Show how true believers die.

Prayer

Acts 2:36-47

Prayer

428 to 629 (Bethany) *J Fawcett*

1 Humble souls, who seek salvation
Through the Lamb's redeeming blood,
Hear the voice of revelation;
Tread the path that Jesus trod.
Flee to him, your only Saviour;
In his mighty name confide;
In the whole of your behaviour,
Own him for your Sovereign Guide.

2 Hear the blest Redeemer call you;
Listen to his gracious voice;
Dread no ills that can befall you,
While you make his ways your choice.
Jesus says, "Let each believer
Be baptizèd in my name."
He himself, in Jordan's river,
Was immersed beneath the stream.

3 Plainly here his footsteps tracing,
Follow him without delay;
Gladly his command embracing;
Lo! your Captain leads the way.
View the rite with understanding;
Jesus' grave before you lies;
Be interred at his commanding;
After his example rise.

Sermon

372 to 625 (Austria) *J Newton*

1 Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God!
He whose word can not be broken,
Formed thee for his own abode;
On the Rock of Ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

2 See! the streams of living waters,
Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters,
And all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
Ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace, which, like the Lord, the giver,
Never fails from age to age.

3 Round each habitation hovering,
See the cloud and fire appear,
For a glory and a covering,
Showing that the Lord is near.
Thus deriving from their banner,
Light by night and shade by day,
Safe they feed upon the manna
Which he gives them when they pray.

4 Blest inhabitants of Zion,
Washed in the Redeemer's blood!
Jesus, whom their souls rely on,
Makes them kings and priests to God.
'Tis his love his people raises
Over self to reign as kings;
And as priests, his solemn praises
Each for a thank-offering brings.