

In keeping with the Word of God, what is the foundational requirement associated with being part of the Church, the Body of Christ?

John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

John 1:12-13: "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

Why?

Galatians 6:15: "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation."

As a result:

Romans 12:4-5: "For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another."

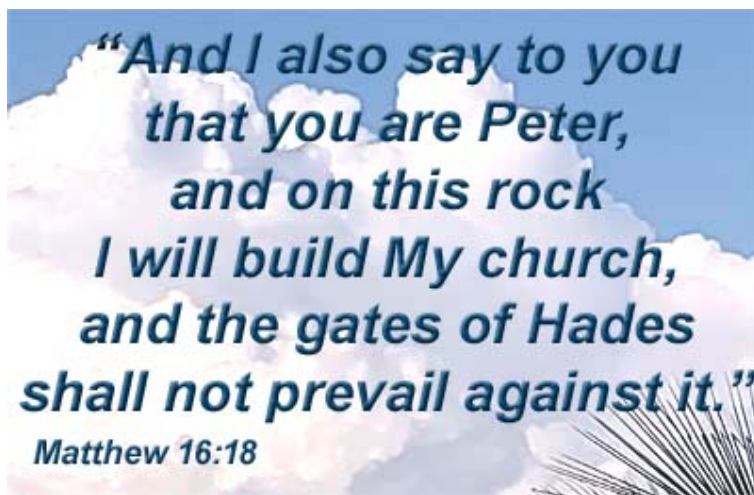
Then:

John 6:40: "This is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

John 10:28: "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand."

Do I understand the basic inherent principle of being born again in Christ Jesus, to become part of His Church?

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Who is the head of the Church?

Matthew 16:15-17: “He asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.”

How does scripture further confirm that Christ is the head of the church, the rock of salvation?

Colossians 1:18: “Christ is also the head of the church, which is His body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So He is first in everything.”

The reason:

Matthew 21:42: Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.’”

Why?

Colossians 2:9-10: “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.”

Ephesians 1:22-23: “God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made Him head over all things for the benefit of the church. And the church is His body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with Himself.”

Is my faith in the Head of the church, Christ the Lord, the rock of salvation, or do I rather follow deceiving religions of men?

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***“Now the Spirit expressly says
that in later times some will
depart from the faith by
devoting themselves to
deceitful spirits and
teachings of demons.”***
1Timothy 4:1

In our world, we find many denominations and religions who claim Christianity as its source, yet the Word of God clearly shows us that to be part of His body, we must be born again and be surrendered to follow Christ in unity of spirit.

How so?

Ephesians 4:4: “For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future.”

1Corinthians 12:12-13: “Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body.”

Why?

Galatians 3:27: “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

The purpose being:

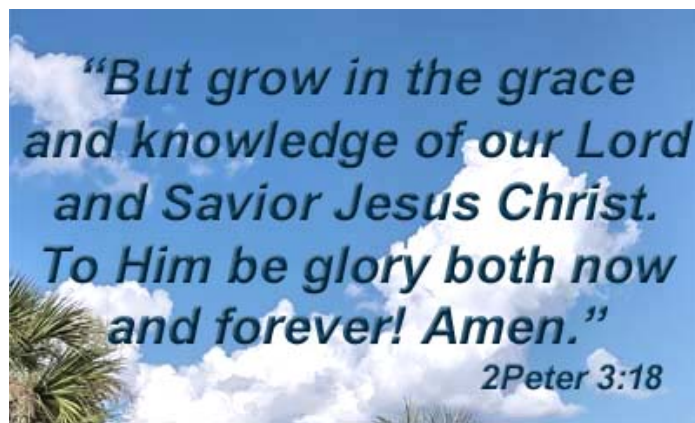
Ephesians 4:14-15: “That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ.”

Therefore:

Colossians 2:8: “See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.”

Is my faith anchored in Christ and His Word, or do I rather follow man centered religions or deceiving preachers?

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As true believers in Christ, we must live to follow Him according to His Word.

How does scripture teach us that?

Ephesians 4:15-16: “Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of Him who is the head, that is, Christ. From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”

How is that achieved?

Colossians 3:2: “Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”

Hebrews 6:1: “Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God.”

Colossians 3:16: “Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

Now, as for the leaders:

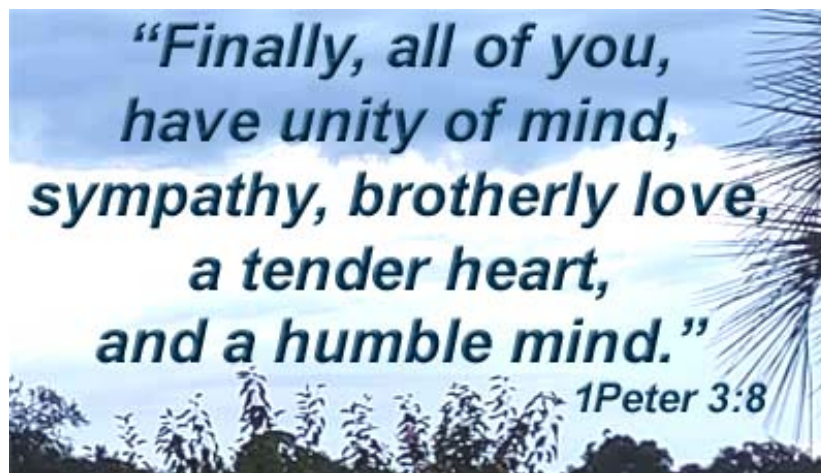
1Peter 5:2: “Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly, not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God.”

Why?

1Cor. 3:16: “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

Does my faith in Christ translate into growing spiritually and living by His Word?

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As the body of Christ, we are enjoined to be of one spirit and united in Christ.

What does the Word teach us on this:

Ephesians 4:1-3: "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

1Corinthians 1:10: "I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose."

What's more?

Romans 16:17-18: "Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly."

Therefore:

Colossians 2:6-7: "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving."

Why?

1Corinthians 3:16: "Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?"

Am I of one spirit with the true Church, the Body of Christ?

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The Word says:

1Peter 2:9-10: "You *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God."

Ephesians 2:19-22: "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In Him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit."

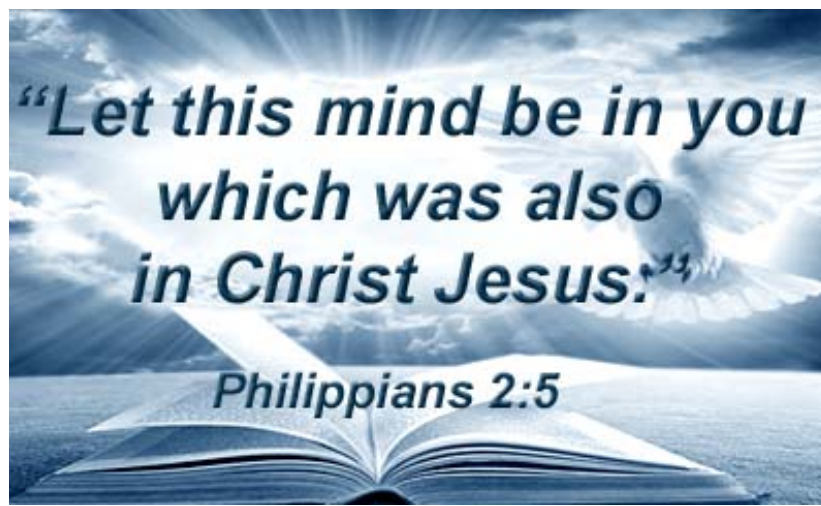
The purpose being:

Ephesians 4:11-13: "Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

Do I realize that we, as the Church, the Body of Christ, have the vital mission to be His witnesses to the world?

Therefore, let's live to follow Christ and be the Church outside the building!

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How is the life of a true believer in Christ impacted, so we seek to learn from His Word, and live to follow Him as Lord?

John 14:23: "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."

Why?

2Corinthians 5:17: "If anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

Romans 8:10: "If Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness."

Colossians 2:9-10: "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power."

Therefore:

Galatians 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

Finally:

2Corinthians 13:5: "Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you, unless, of course, you fail the test?"

Does my daily life testify of the presence of the Spirit of Christ in me?

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