

**The New Testament Church**  
**By John Miller**  
*-It's Beginning-*

The church described by the New Testament rests upon the 7 cardinal principals.

These are:

1. The death of Christ
2. The resurrection of Christ
3. The ascension of Christ
4. The sending of the Holy Spirit
5. Baptism by His authority
6. Baptism into the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
7. Salvation in the name of Christ

Apart from these foundation stones there could be no New Testament. There could be no New Testament church until these foundation stones were all firmly laid.

After two and a half years of association with Jesus, Peter expresses his conviction in the Deity of Christ.

Matthew 16:18,

"I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it."

The Rock on which Christ would build His church is not Peter, but the truth to which Peter confessed that Jesus is the Son of God. The Deity of Jesus is the foundation on which the church rests the fundamental creed of Christendom.

At that time the building of the Lord's church was still in the future.

From the first Pentecost following His resurrection the church was spoken of as something in existence, and people were being added to it.

Acts 2:47

47 "praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved."

In the second chapter of the book of Acts the announcement of all seven cardinal facts which the church rests were made.

Speaking by the Holy Spirit

Jesus was delivered up by the council and foreknowledge of God

He was crucified who God raised up

Being therefore by the right hand of God exalted and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured forth this which you see and hear; the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Those who heard the words were pricked in their hearts and cried out in Acts 2:37

Peter said in Acts 2:38, "Repent and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." These apostles were acting under the Great Commission which they had received of the Lord.

Matt 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Baptism was first proclaimed by Christ authority on this day. It was administered according to the Great Commission of Christ.

In the name of God the remission of sins or salvation were proclaimed in His name.

Luke 24:46-47

46 and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day,

47 and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

Peter explained a short time later and in none other is there salvation: for neither is there any other name under heaven that is given among men wherein we must be saved (Acts 4:12)

All the foundation stones on which the church rests were planted on the first Pentecost following the resurrection of Christ. The church was therefore spoken of as being in existence.

Peter spoke of this day as the beginning in :

Acts 11:15

15 "And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as {He did} upon us at the beginning.

The laws governing His church became functional on the very day it was started.

We do not go back before the death of Christ to learn how to become a Christian. We do not go back to the Law of Moses. We worship God as set forth in the New Testament.

We also should avoid looking forward to the time of Christ's return for the establishment of His reign upon the earth. He is our King now. We are His subjects now.

We are subject to all of His law. When He comes again it will not be to set up his kingdom on earth, but He is coming to raise us all to either the resurrection of life or to the resurrection of condemnation.

John 5:28-29

28 "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice,

29 and will come forth; those who did the good {deeds} to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil {deeds} to a resurrection of judgment."

Any church that did not start on the first Pentecost following the resurrection of Christ is not His. All we know about the church of our Lord or the principles by which it is governed, we learn from the word of God. While we read the Old Testament to learning from the way God dealt with His people there, our primary focus must be the New Testament when trying to function as the New Testament church the Jesus established.