

PRINCIPLES OF MT. LEBANON CHRISTIAN CHURCH

MT. LEBANON CHRISTIAN CHURCH is part of the brotherhood of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), one of the major Christian groups in the United States. The main plea of this brotherhood is for the unity of the Church, a unity as portrayed in the New Testament.

IT IS A PLEA WITH A UNIVERSAL APPEAL. Jesus prayed "that they may all be one" (John 17: 21). Everywhere Christian people are seeking unity today. This unity must be New Testament centered if it is to endure.

IT OFFERS A NAME ALL CAN WEAR. "And in Antioch the disciples were for the first time called Christians" (Acts 11: 26). This name is acceptable to all followers of Christ. Some other names are exclusive and divisive. See I Corinthians 1: 11-15.

IT PRESENTS A CREED ALL CAN ACCEPT. "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God" (Matthew 16: 16). Some articles in the historic creeds of Christendom are controversial. The New Testament requires only a plain statement of faith in Christ as the Son of the Living God. See Acts 8:37.

IT TEACHES A BAPTISM ALL CAN OBEY. Baptism in the New Testament is the immersion of a person old enough to believe that Christ is the Son of the Living God. Baptism follows upon that confession of faith. It is for the remission of sins, and is part of the plan of salvation. "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins" (Acts 2: 38). "We are buried, therefore, with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in the newness of life" (Romans 6: 4).

IT OBSERVES THE LORD'S SUPPER IN A WAY ALL CAN SHARE. "Do this in remembrance of Me" (Luke 22: 19). The New Testament strongly implies that the Lord's Supper was observed "as often as Christians gathered together to break bread" (Acts 20: 7). It is the spiritual center of our worship every Sunday. Each person decides for himself whether or not to share in the observance.

IT IS ORGANIZED UNDER A FORM OF GOVERNMENT IN WHICH ALL CAN BE FREE. It is congregational in government, just as the Church at Corinth or Antioch was in the New Testament times. Each congregation is the ultimate human authority. Congregations voluntarily cooperate in many ways, particularly through the Christian Church in Pennsylvania and the General Assembly of the Christian Church.

IT IS A FELLOWSHIP THAT IS ALL INCLUSIVE. IT WELCOMES YOU.