WHY I AM A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST
By Paul R. Blake
(Developed from a sermon by Leroy Brownlow)

Introduction:
A. John 6:57-69
   1. You know me well enough by now to be sure of two things:
      a. I believe the word of God to be true and the only source of authority in religion.
      b. I teach only what is written in the Bible.
   2. There are a few other things I would like you to know as well.
      a. I teach because I love people and their souls; would say nothing to deliberately
         offend another.
      b. In my efforts to preach the word of God as it is written so that souls might go to
         heaven, some become offended.
   3. John 6:60-61, 66-69
      a. Pain of the truth causes some people to obey the Lord; it causes others to turn
         from him in anger.
      b. Some are angered by the words of Jesus, but can they find salvation
         elsewhere?
B. I am a servant of Jesus Christ preaching for the Tomlinson Run Church of Christ.
   1. Why in the Church of Christ? HARD QUESTION, but we can handle it.
      a. How many?
   3. 1Cor. 14:33 - “God is not the author of confusion.”
      a. Is religious division confusing?
   4. 1Cor. 1:10
      a. Does God like division?
   5. Eph. 4:4, 1:22-23; Col. 1:18
      a. How many churches is Christ the head of?
C. Taught me that there is one that is pleasing to God.
   1. Since the Bible taught me that, I let it teach me which one.
D. WHY I AM A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST.

I. JESUS CHRIST IS ITS FOUNDATION
   A. Isaiah 28:16
      1. Matt. 16:18 - Christ is that rock.
   B. It is not built on anything else.
      1. 1Cor. 3:11; Eph. 2:20.
   C. Jesus is not the founder of any earthly organization created and led by men.

II. JESUS CHRIST GAVE US ITS CREED
   A. ‘Credo’ - "I believe."
      1. A creed is what a church believes.
   B. Heb. 1:1-2, 13:8 - perfect creed; doesn’t need changed.
      1. Only acceptable creed!
      2. 2John 9-11; Romans 16:17; Prov. 6:19
   C. If a creed has more than the Bible, it has too much; If it has less, it doesn’t have
      enough.
III. JESUS CHRIST IS ITS HEAD
   A. Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18; Matt. 28:18.
   B. Has only one head and we are all subject to it; no man can command us in anything
       other than what Christ has authorized - Col. 3:17.
   C. Christ died for it – Eph. 5:25,
      1. Paid for it with his blood – Acts 20:28
      2. He has all authority over it – Col. 1:18,
      3. His doctrine must be taught in it – 2John 9,
      4. He is the foundation – 1Cor 3:11...
      5. Whose name should it wear?!

IV. JESUS CHRIST GAVE IT HIS NAME
   A. Isaiah 65:15, 56:5; Amos 9:11-12.
      1. Names are important to God.
      2. Abraham, Sarah, Jacob, etc.
      3. Prov. 22:1
   B. A Good Name – Acts 11:26, 26:28; 1Peter 4:16; Acts 4:12
      1. A bride wears her husband’s name.
      2. Eph. 5:23 -The church is the bride of Christ.
   C. 1Cor. 1:12-13 – It is sinful to wear any other name than what we have been baptized
      into. Into whom are we baptized?
      1. How does this differ significantly from “I am a Lutheran, Methodist, Baptist…?”
   D. If it is Christ’s Church, then whose name should be on it?
      1. Some wear his name, but don’t use his doctrine.

V. THE CHURCH OF CHRIST PRACTICES GOD’S WORD ON BAPTISM
   A. Matt. 28:18-20 - Christ demanded it.
   B. Mark 16:16 - Christ said it saves.
   C. Acts 2:38 - It is in the name of Christ; removes sin.
   D. Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:11-12 - it is a burial or immersion.
   E. Acts 22:16 - It is what washes away sin.

VI. THE CHURCH OF CHRIST PRACTICES TRUTH ON THE LORD’S SUPPER
   A. Purpose - 1Cor. 11:23-29.
   B. Day - Acts 20:7
   C. Frequency - 1Cor. 16:1-2

VII. THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS UNITED BY TRUTH
   A. John 17:20-21 - God’s basis for unity
   B. Eph. 4:1-6; 1Cor. 1:10
      1. How are we united? By speaking the same thing.
   C. John 12:48-49; James 1:25; 1John 5:13, 19-20; Matt. 11:25; Gal. 1:6-10
      1. United by truth, not in diversity.

VIII. THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS NOT A DENOMINATION OF MEN
   A. Matthew 15:13, 7:21-23; John 6:67-69
      1. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and I want to belong to His Church! Don't you?