

# When did the Church Begin?

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Confusion abounds on exactly when “the church” began. Part of the problem is:

## “which church are we talking about”?

There are three unique choices for your consideration:

- **The Jewish Church**                      1st Century Jews believing Jesus as their Messiah (Acts 2-8)
- **Christ’s Church**                        Pauline Gentile believers in the Body of Christ (Acts 9)
- **The Christian Church**                4<sup>th</sup> Century Covenant Theology (313 AD)

All three of the above churches are active to this day and completely unrelated.

## The Jewish Church

*The Jewish Messianic Church began in Acts 2.*

In the first century, after Christ’s ascension, there were Jews who believed Jesus to be the Messiah, sent from God, as foretold by the prophets throughout their Scriptures (read: our Old Testament). The people of that day - the Romans - chided the Jewish Messiah-believers with a slur, calling them “Christians”.

**Fun Fact:** The word Christian(s) appears in the Bible only three times and always and only referred to the Jews that believed Jesus was their Messiah, never the Gentiles.

**Fun Fact:** The only “Christian” church mentioned anywhere in the Bible is the Jewish Messianic Church of Acts 2. There were no Gentile Body of Christ Believers in this group.

**Fun Fact:** The religion of today called Christian is not in the Bible, nor is it a biblical religion. It is a religion, like so many, using words from the Bible, out of context, to create the things they choose to believe.

**Fun Fact:** No one ever used the term “Christian” to describe Gentiles in general or the Body of Christ in particular. Christians are Acts 2 Jews only.

**Fun Fact:** Consider, in the 30 plus years of ministry and writing, neither Peter, Paul, James, John, nor Jude ever used the term Christian to describe themselves, their followers, or their church.

**Fun Fact:** Only Jews were present in the Acts 2 Jewish Church. At the time of Acts 2 through Acts 8, there was no Gentile Body of Christ / Christ’s Church because there was no Apostle Paul to go to the Gentiles, no Pauline Gospel, and no mystery given to Paul. This would not begin until later in the timeline in the book of Acts.

**Fun Fact:** The religion of our time called “Christian” is nowhere found in the Bible. It is a made-up religion in the same way Mormonism, Amish-ism, Pentecostal-ism, Catholicism, Evangelicalism, and a host of others, are man-made religions.

***The Book of the Acts of the Apostles*** – Acts, for short – provides the moment in history when the Jewish Messianic church came into existence. (This has nothing to do with the Gentile religion called Christian)

As the Book of Acts opens, Jesus ascends into Heaven leaving His Jewish disciples to carry on. Before leaving, He told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem until receiving what He had promised.

### **Acts 1**

**4 And, being assembled together with [them], commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, [saith he], ye have heard of me.**

**5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.**

**Fun Fact:** The disciples would never leave Jerusalem, waiting instead for the promised return of Jesus which never happen. Instead, the Jews were scattered, their religion and writings rendered obsolete, and God began a new program called the Age of Grace, sending the Apostle Paul to the Gentiles with the message God had for the Gentile world.

At the Feast of Pentecost, a totally Jewish event, as the disciples were gathered together, the Spirit descended upon them and they were **filled** with the Spirit, and began speaking in different languages (Acts 2:4). This was a miracle from God, the Spirit of God working through these men to authenticate and validate them, their ministry, and their message.

The disciples, speaking in a foreign language, allowed those Jews who did not speak Hebrew, who traveled from afar to Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost, to hear and understand the **Jewish Gospel** message spoken in their own native tongue. This linguistic shortcut catapulted Peter’s Jewish Gospel message throughout the then-known world as those Jews who saw and heard this miraculous event told other Jews back home. They never told the Gentiles. To this point, the Gentiles had nothing to do with anything.

**Fun Fact:** The miracles, signs, and wonders active during the time of Jesus in the four Jewish Gospels, and during the time of the Apostles covered in the book of Acts, were all replaced with the greater miracle of the indwelling Spirit of God. The Spirit also replaced the church buildings, temples, tabernacles, cathedrals, and alters. Each child of God / member of the Body of Christ is a temple of the living God.

**Fun Fact:** **A point of confusion:** many times throughout the Bible, people are “**filled**” with the Spirit and do or say miraculous things as the Spirit **works through them**

giving power or utterance. These are temporary events for the moment and are for a sign. The Jewish Gospels and the Old Testament provide numerous examples of this temporary “Spiritual filling” as does the Apostolic period when the Apostles performed many signs and wonders to show the power of God, and to authenticate and validate their ministry. In time, this Spiritual filling abated. **The key word here is temporary.**

The **Indwelling** Spirit is different. This **gift of God** is a permanent feature in the believers life, changing a person into a new spiritual creation. Note that **the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable**. **The key word here is permanent**

The indwelling Spirit is the mystery hidden in God from the beginning of the world - it was God’s secret that no one knew about - not in the Old Testament, or in the time of the four Jewish Gospels, or in the first eight chapters of Acts. It was unknown until the ascended Christ revealed this mystery to Paul to take to the Gentiles. The Jews never knew anything about it.

Therefore, when you see in the first eight chapters of Acts the filling of the Spirit, it is before Paul received the mystery and so, a temporary show of the power of God working through an individual, and not the permanent indwelling Spirit which the Jews never received.

**Fun Fact:** The Spiritual filling was for show and to make a statement, where as the Indwelling Spirit is a life changing force. So, you may have the Indwelling Spirit of God and still not be able to raise the dead. That would take the Spiritual filling - the Spirit of God working through you for validation, should God choose. Spoiler - that is not happening today in the false Pentecostal / Charismatic religions. Today, the past miracles, signs and wonders, and the Church, Temple edifice have all been replaced with the current miracle of the indwelling Spirit of God.

**Fun Fact:** The Jewish Christian church and the Gentile Body of Christ never mixed in that day as they do not mix today. Regardless of what you may have been told, the Body of Christ did not begin in the Jewish Christian Church of Acts 2. Neither did the post Apostolic religion called Christian.

**NOTE: Here is a source of misunderstanding:** Gentiles first used the term “Christian” for their religion in the Post Apostolic period - long after the Apostle Paul’s ministry. Gentile Christianity was not and is not the Pauline Body of Christ, but a collection of influences from philosophy, humanism, knowledge, paganism, science so-called, the Jewish Gospels, and the story of Jesus, to name a few. This false religion was the seed that later begat the Roman pagan Christian Church, and eventually the Protestant religion.

The Christian religion, Roman and Protestant, did not begin anywhere in the Book of Acts, nor can it be found anywhere else in the Bible.

The term “Christian” - appearing only three times in the Bible - comes from a mention in Acts denoting Jewish disciples in the Jewish Church, and had nothing to do with Gentiles. It was a label assigned to the Jewish believers by the culture: a pejorative term; disparaging, and-derogatory.

When the Jews dispersed due to the persecution of Saul, as they traveled, they preached Jesus the Messiah: **only to Jews, not to Gentiles.**

### **Acts 11**

**:19 Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen traveled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.**

The Jewish Church believed Jesus as the Messiah, but they were fully Jews, following the Jewish law, the Jewish diet, the Sabbath, circumcision, the feasts, and the commandments of Moses. They abhorred the Gentiles and had nothing to do with them, thinking themselves superior, belonging to God. They called the Gentiles pagans, dogs, heathens, and sinners. They also had nothing to do with the Body of Christ as it did not exist at that time. Even when Paul came on the scene later in Acts, the Jews insisted that the Gentiles follow the Jewish laws and circumcision. They never understood anything Paul.

The Jews also did not have the indwelling Spirit of God as it was not yet given to the Apostle Paul who did not yet exist. Later, when Paul preached his Gospel and the Mystery of God, the Jews would not believe, did not receive the Spirit indwelling, were hardened, scattered, and they remain blind to God’s message to mankind that He sent into the world through Paul.

The Jews never mixed with the Gentiles then, and do not to this day and never will until eternity. The Body of Christ never had anything to do with the Jewish messianic believers. The two were uniquely different and totally separate groups, each having their own unique program and destiny. The Hebrew epistles were not written to, do not speak of, and contain no commands, doctrines, or guidance for the Body of Christ. These writings were rendered obsolete as they apply to no one, including the Jews..

**Fun Fact:** The Book of the Revelation is a totally Jewish book (as are all the Jewish Hebrew epistles: Hebrews -through the Revelation) and have nothing to do with the Gentile Body of Christ. When you read about the 7 Churches in the Book of the Revelation, these are Jewish Churches, not Gentile churches, and certainly not the “Gentile Christian Churches” of the last 1700 years.

For an in depth study of the 7 Churches of the Revelation, see the article on this site  
***“The 7 “Jewish” Churches Not Your Church”*** [PPGpilot.com](http://PPGpilot.com)

## Christ's Church

### *The Body of Christ began in Acts 9*

Christ's Church, the Pauline Body of Christ, began in Acts 9 with the conversion of Saul to the Apostle Paul. Still, it took many years before there was progress in building the Gentile Church of the Body of Christ.

Christ called Saul out from his persecuting the Jewish Christian Messianic church to a ministry to the Gentiles: a.k.a. pagans, a.k.a. sinners, a.k.a. heathens, aka "dogs".

- Christ gave Paul the **MINISTRY** of reconciliation to **GO** to the Gentiles,
- and the **WORD** of reconciliation to **PREACH** to the Gentiles.
- Christ also gave Paul the mystery hidden in God from the foundation of the world - Christ in you through the indwelling Spirit of God.
- This was God's message to humanity sent through Paul.

Those individuals who have the indwelling Spirit of God are members of the Body of Christ, the children of God in Christ's Church. The Body of Christ has nothing to do with the modern-day religion called Christian, a religion about God, but without the relationship with God, or the Spirit of God. As such, the Christian religion is very much like the Jews in their religion about God, and the Gentiles are also blind and hardened like the Jews in this Age of Grace. Christianity is like all the religions of the world that preach a fortune cookie theology of good things and good thoughts and good deeds.

**Fun Fact:** If the Apostle Paul were with us today, he would warn the Body of Christ to have nothing to do with the many false religions called Christian. He would also throw in an anathema or two for good measure.

## The Modern-Day Church

### *The Christian Church of today began in Rome in 313 AD*

Many religions today claim the name Christian in a self-christening, having an erroneous assumption that they are God's called and chosen, the replacement of His people, the Jews. They believe they are the true Israel and somehow Jesus spoke to them from the four Jewish Gospels 2000 years ago. Yet, they have neither the Bible nor the Spirit of God to lead them: they are lost, all the while self-assured in their blindness believing they can see. They chant, babble, raise their hands, light candles, pray to statues, count beads, do their good works and missions, evangelize, sacrifice, afflict themselves with sufferings, and call out to a false god of their own making. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> century Roman pagan religion, brought to you today through centuries of ignorance: a collection of philosophies, superstitions, paganism, and science-so-called, that lives on in the retail church of a false religion called Christian.

When did your church begin?