

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."



## *A Controversial Newsletter "The Printed Voice of Summit Theological Seminary"*

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### **Did John the Baptist Start the Church?**

If he did, the Bible doesn't say he did.

If he did, he did not announce or prophecy that he was going to do so; like Jesus did – **Matthew 16:18**

If he did, he did it after he died and before Jesus said, "I will build My Church – **Matthew 14:10** - Compare **Matthew 16:18**. Are there two Churches or two founders? If there are two churches, obviously which church should you be a part? If there is one Church, how can we accept Jesus as the founder of His Church?

If he did, why did Christ prophecy "Upon this rock I will (future) build My Church" and death or Hades would not prevent His doing so? **Matthew 16:18**

If he did establish a church, he did not purchase it with his own blood, as Jesus did. **Acts 20:28**, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."

If he did, it never had any members because John said Jesus must increase and he (John) must decrease. If one decreases, there are none.

If he did, his converts had to be baptized again because his baptism did not give the Holy Spirit – **Acts 19:1-5, Acts 2:38**.

If he did, does it not divide the body of Christ for we are not to say, "I am of Paul or Cephas or Apollos", so why should Baptists say, "I am of John"? – **1 Corinthians 1:12**

If he did, was Christ divided? For John was not crucified for his church nor were they baptized in John's name – **1 Corinthians 1:13**

If he did, how can Jesus be the cornerstone and the apostles and prophets the foundation of it? – **Ephesians 2:20**

If he did, how can it be said "There is one body"? **Ephesians 4:4, Ephesians 1:22-23**

If he did, how can there be one Spirit for the Spirit was not given by John's baptism? **John 7:39, Ephesians 4:4**

If he did, how can a man who was not risen from the dead give us the "one hope"? **Ephesians 4:4**

If all of this is true, the Baptist denomination cannot be the Church of Christ for the Church gives Christ the Preeminence – **Colossians 1:18**.

Then, who started the Baptist denomination? John Smythe and Thomas Helwys in about 1607 in Holland, sixteen hundred years after John the Immerser died. See article on Baptist Origins in Wikipedia. Of course, there are 200 – 500 different kinds of Baptists and man does not know which the true church is, which John supposedly established.

In light of this, the doctrine of succession of the Baptist Church is as ludicrous as Rome's claim or the Episcopal Churches claim of a succession from the Apostles.

But with Christ's Church there is no provable succession needed. We are plainly told that the Church will be hidden in the wilderness for 1,260 years during the dark ages. **Revelation 12:14**

All that is needed is for those who believe that Jesus is Lord and obey Him in Christian baptism, to gather in an assembly each Lord's Day to observe the Lord's Memorial with others of like-precious-faith.

These give preeminence to Jesus and recognize that He is the cornerstone foundation with the teachings of His Apostles and Prophets as foundation of Christ's Church.

Jesus owns the Church because He built it, bought it, was crucified for it, and it's to be called by His Name and to be Holy and walk as He walked.

What made a Christian in the first century makes one a Christian today!

Only what His Church taught then, is what makes His Church today.

No creed, but Christ.  
No Book, but the Word,  
No Name, but the Divine.

The ordinances (baptism, Lord's Supper) are Christ's ordinances, not the ordinances of the Church.

They are His commands, not what men make them.

We meet in His Name, wear His Name, and recognize Him as having all authority in Heaven and earth!

To recognize the ordinances of men and teach for doctrine the commandments of men, and negate the commands by our traditions, is mutiny!

To recognize any alleged authority who presumes to teach any other doctrine, is to make ourselves their fellow usurpers!