

Q: "DO YOU THINK YOU'RE THE ONLY TRUE CHURCH?"

A: "NO! ABSOLUTELY NOT AND HERE IS PROOF!"

Introduction

This seems to be a strange accusation but it needs to be answered. Over the years there has been a few times where someone will slanderously accuse us by saying, "*You must think that yours is the only true church?*" I am not sure what their motivation is for using this strange accusation, but I have the suspicion that they are trying to tie us to some sort of cultic thinking.

It has occasionally come from the lips of a person who has attended our church for a short time. They often come to us from an "easy-believism" mega church. When we begin to try to get them connected by inviting them to small group and evangelism, they often resist connectedness and accountability. They do not usually want to join or sign the membership covenant. They will often then say that they are considering returning to a less serious and less biblical church. When we speak seriously about their commitment and point out the dangers of their former church they will then accuse us of thinking that we are the only true church. Allow me to give you various proofs **that we do NOT think that our church is the only true church**. If you have made this false accusation, I would ask you to refrain from such slander in the future.

Proof #1: We are a member of the Conservative Baptist Association of America

This is an association of Baptist churches of like precious faith. The doctrinal statement of the CBA is solidly evangelical and has its roots in the 1689. It clearly says that repentance and faith are essential for salvation and notes that true saving faith will produce the fruit of good works. There are hundreds of churches in this association worldwide. While no association is perfect we would acknowledge that this is an association of many other true churches.

Proof #2: We are a member of the Spurgeon Fellowship

This too is an association of numerous churches of like precious faith. The brothers and churches in this fellowship are all much closer on more theological issues. These churches would be considered by us to be true churches.

Proof #3: We are listed on 9marks.com

This is a listing of many, many churches all over the world that hold the same 9 marks of a true church. We assume these churches are true sister churches.

Proof #4: We subscribe to the "Together for the Gospel" Document

We see these churches as true sister churches.

Proof #5: We would recommend the churches in the Fellowship of Independent Reformed Evangelicals (F.I.R.E.). We see these churches as true sister churches.

Proof #6: Pastor Dave uses Bible Commentaries from other Pastors of other True Churches

We see these churches as true sister churches. The churches these men pastor are from all different denominations. For example: John Stott is Anglican; Albert Mohler is Southern Baptist, John MacArthur is independent, R. C. Sproul is Presbyterian.

Proof #7: Our Church uses Study Materials from other True Churches

For a brief example of some of the study books from other pastors and other churches: Jerry Bridges' Pursuit of Holiness; John MacArthur's Gospel According to Jesus, Bill Hull's The Disciple Making Pastor.

Proof #8: Our Church Recommends Media Ministries of other True Churches

For some examples: Allistair Begg, James MacDonald, D. James Kennedy, R. C. Sproul, John MacArthur, Hank Hannegraff, World Pictures, etc.

Proof #9: Our Church Recommends Conferences from other True Churches

For a few examples: The Shepherd's Conference, Together for the Gospel, Ligonier Conference, etc.

Proof #10: Pastor Dave Received Training in Bible College, Seminary and Doctoral studies from Pastors of other True Churches

Furthermore, any church which believes and practices the historic doctrinal statements of the great protestant denominations such as the Westminster Confession of the Faith (Presbyterians), The Baptist Faith and Message (Southern Baptists), the 1689 (Historic Baptists), The old Methodist faith of John Wesley, The old Anglican doctrinal statements of the Puritans, The old Lutheran doctrinal statement of Martin Luther, for example, would be considered true churches. It should also be understood that there are many false churches which verbally adhere to sound doctrine. Paul warned that they profess that they know God but in their works they deny Him. The Great Apostasy is pressing upon us.