The church of Christ – Its principles and Its plea

1. The Church
   1. Church defined –called out of world by the word of God (2 Thes. 2:14)
      1. Universal – Mt 16:18-20“I will build My church” singular – comprised of all saved on earth
      2. Local – 1Co. 1:2 - church at Corinth – specifically those Christians assembling in Corinth – not all saved in the world.
         1. Never a denomination – many churches but not all – bigger than one smaller than whole
   2. Church described
      1. Kingdom - indicating the gov’t side of church: monarchy
      2. House of God – family aspect of the church
      3. Body of Christ – only one Christ only one body – fellowship aspect
      4. Fold of Christ – Shelter aspect – one shepherd
      5. Temple of God – Worship aspect – Living God vs. non-living idols gods
      6. Vineyard – work feature – realm in which service is rendered to God.
2. The church’s Principles
   1. Bible is the inspired word of God - 2 Tim 3:16-17
      1. Scriptures are for
         1. Doctrine – realm of teaching
         2. Reproof – convince of that teaching
         3. Correction – to take out of wrong way and put in right way
         4. Instruction in righteousness – continued instruction and edification necessary to progress & grow & develop in the discipline of the divine creed – the inspired word
         5. Enables for every good work – work of teaching things mentioned - no need for other creeds/bond of communions
   2. Holy Spirit dwells in Christians through the word – Col 3:16; Eph 5:18
   3. Gospel is the Power of God – Rom. 1:16-17
   4. Baptism is immersion in water to a believing, penitent person,& is essential for salvation - Mark 16:16; 1 Pet 3:21; Acts 8:37
   5. Formation and Gov’t of church must be in accordance w/ divine pattern – Heb. 8:5; Phil 1:1
   6. First day of week worship is essential to worship God – Acts 20:7
   7. Every element of worship must be specified/authorized – 1 Cor. 11:2; 14:15; Heb. 2:12
   8. Bible things called by Bible names – Acts 11:26
   9. Faithfulness is a condition of salvation – 2 Pet. 1:10-11
3. The church’s Plea
   1. Unity of the Spirit (Eph. 4:1-6)
      1. One Body – one church, only.
      2. One Spirit – one mind or disposition one judgment
      3. One Hope – one desire one expectation of Heaven
      4. One Lord – one authority
      5. One Faith – not many faiths leading to same destination, “The Faith” –one gospel not human creeds
      6. One Baptism – not many – if sprinkling is baptism, then immersion is not baptism
      7. One God – means one worship – unity in worship
   2. The Gospel is for all!