

P.M. OUTLINE
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NAMES FOR THE CHURCH / CONGREGATION continued

INTRODUCTION

Review: Biblically, there is not one "official name" used for the N.T. church.
Many of these references to the church are descriptive words to identify our work,
our relationship to one another, or our relationship to the Godhead.

1. CHURCHES OF CHRIST - (Romans 16:16) "Greet one another with a holy kiss.
the churches of Christ greet you."

"greet one another" - a descriptive phrase for individual Christians in the churches. (v5)

"holy kiss" - any greeting is to be "holy."
(1 Cor. 16:20, 2 Cor. 13:12-13, 1 Thess. 5:26, 1 Peter 5:14)

"churches of Christ" - identifies to whom we belong and on whose side we stand.

2. CHURCH OF GOD - (1 Cor. 1:2) "To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who
are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the
name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours."

(1 Cor. 10:32, 11:22, 15:9; Galatians 1:13; 1 Timothy 3:5)

3. CHURCH OF THE FIRSTBORN - (Hebrews 12:22-23) "But you have come to
Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable
company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are
registered in heaven"

"firstborn" - (Romans 8:29) "that He might be the firstborn among many brethren"
(Colossians 1:15) "He ... the firstborn over all creation"
(Col. 1:18) "the firstborn from the dead"

"who are registered in heaven" - that's us, the church.
(Luke 10:20; Philippians 4:3; Revelation 20:14-15 and 21:27)
Warning: (Revelation 3:5)

4. KINGDOM OF HIS DEAR SON - (Colossians 1:13-14) "He has delivered us from
the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom
we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins" (also Hebrews 12:28)

A "kingdom" has 4 characteristics: 1) A king: (1 Tim. 15-16)
2) A law (John 14:15 and 12:48-50) 3) Subjects (John 10:4 and 8:30-32)
3) A territory (Eph. 1:22-23 and 5:23; Colossians 1:18)

Are all people, whether in the kingdom or not, accountable to the Bible? Yes!

(Acts 17:26-27) "And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell
on all the face of the earth ... so that they should seek the Lord ... "
(Matthew 28:18; Romans 14:9-10; Philippians 2:9-10)