

MARKS OF THE TRUE CHURCH - - - (continued)

Is there any way by which we can distinguish the Church that Christ founded from all other churches?

We can distinguish the Church founded by Christ from all other churches by the MARKS or SIGNS that Our Lord gave to it.

A MARK is a sign by which something may be distinguished from all others of the same kind. By its marks we can recognize the True Church as the one founded by Jesus Christ, distinguishing it from all other churches, however similar.

1. It is important that we know which is the Church established by Christ, in order that we may OBEY it, as God commands. Then shall we also be certain what to believe and do in order to be saved; the Church, THAT ONE AND ONLY TRUE CHURCH, will be our guide to heaven.

We must distinguish the True Church from false churches, because today there are MANY imitations of the church founded by Christ.

The ecumenical atmosphere which is quite prevalent in the Roman Catholic Church is very wrong, and goes contrary to every word issued by Jesus Christ, Himself, when He spoke about HIS CHURCH. It is actually being taught by "catholic priests" that all churches are equally "salvific" (this includes the catholic church taken together with all of the rest).

PETER is still in possession of THE KEYS, and the words of these false priests are not sufficient to make the KEYS TO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN available to just about anyone. Peter has not shared THE KEYS with anyone - THEY ARE STILL IN HIS HAND.

2. The True Church must be that which Christ personally founded, and the Apostles propagated. It must have existed continuously since the time of Christ. It must teach in their entirety ALL THE DOCTRINES commanded by the Divine Founder while He was still on earth; and all its members MUST profess those fundamental doctrines. It must be a VISIBLE ORGANIZATION, discernible and discoverable, evidently existing, with CLEAR MARKS OR SIGNS distinguishing it as the ONLY True Church.

It was through a common bond of faith that the faithful throughout the world were to be united in ONE body, the Church, their heritage from the Son of God. Our Lord therefore before His Ascension made the necessary provision so that all men might from thenceforth RECOGNIZE the Church which He established, and which He COMMANDED all to join.

3. WHAT ARE THE CHIEF MARKS OF THE TRUE CHURCH?

The chief marks of the True Church are four:

- (1) It is ONE
- (2) It is HOLY
- (3) It is CATHOLIC
- (4) It is APOSTOLIC