

# The Principle of Restoration

(The Cause We Plead Series - #2)

February 4, 2007

## Review

### Looking at The Church in the New Testament, we saw:

Matt. 16:18 Jesus built HIS church  
Acts 2 It was established and made up of the saved  
Eph. 4:4 There was only one church  
Eph. 1:22,23 Jesus was the head of the church  
Jn 17:20,21 Jesus desired unity among Christians in the church

### Looking at the “church” through history, we saw:

Men disregarded the Bible and/or went beyond Biblical teaching to change the simple organization, doctrine, and practices of the New Testament church until there are now thousands of denominations and churches unable to show the world the unity Jesus prayed for.

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## Some PRINCIPALS of Restoration

### 1794 Virginia

Drafted a resolution to Superintendent Asbury calling for a “permanent plan for peace and union, taking the Holy Scriptures for our guide.” When the request was denied, he and his followers formed the “Christian Church.”

### 1801 Vermont

Dissatisfied with Calvinism, they taught that Christians should be guided only by scripture. They withdrew from their denomination and organized an independent “Christian Church.”

### 1803 Kentucky

During his training for the ministry, he had many misgivings about the theology he was taught. When asked at his ordination ceremony in 1798 if he accepted the church’s Confession of Faith, he replied, “I do, as far as I see it consistent with the Word of God.” In 1803 he renounced the authority of the Synod and formed the Springfield Presbytery. Within five months he decided there was no scriptural authority for such an organization, so he and his followers disbanded it and began to call themselves “Christians.”

### 1808 Pennsylvania

When he was “rebuked and admonished” by the Synod for teaching that there was no divine authority for confessions of faith, he withdrew from the denomination and formed the “Christian Association” in an effort to return to the “simple original form of Christianity.”

### 1811 Pennsylvania

With his father, organized the Brush Run Church without any ecclesiastical structure for authority and with no creed other than the Bible.

## Possible Ways For Christians To Achieve Unity

Method 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Method 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Method 3: \_\_\_\_\_

The churches of Christ come from a movement which advocated Method #3. That “Restoration Movement” to which we trace our roots began in the early 1800’s as many separate movements across America.

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## Some PRINCIPLES of Restoration

### The Last Will and Testament of the Springfield Presbytery, 1804

“We *will* that this body die, be dissolved, and sink into union with the Body of Christ at large; for there is but one Body...”

“We *will* that our power of making laws for the government of the church, and executing them by delegated authority, forever cease...”

“We *will* that the people henceforth take the Bible as the only sure guide to heaven...”

### The Declaration and Address of the Christian Association, 1809

“The Church of Christ upon earth is essentially, intentionally, and constitutionally one.”

“Division among Christians is a horrid evil...”

“Nothing ought to be received into the faith or worship of the church, or be made a term of communion among Christians, that is not as old as the New Testament.”

### Some famous slogans of the restoration movement

“We will speak where the Bible speaks, and remain silent where the Bible is silent.”

“In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, love.”

“Not the only Christians, but Christians only.”

“The Bible only makes Christians only.”

### Basic Principles of the Restoration Plea

- Since Christianity was perfect when it began, it cannot be “reformed.” What is needed is a restoration of the ancient order of things.
- The New Testament is a divine constitution for the church, and we have no right to practice anything that it does not expressly authorize.
- A return to the faith and practice of the New Testament would end denominational divisions and restore the unity of Christ’s church.