

# The Correspondent

SUNDAY

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM & 1:30 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study (Adult) 1:30 PM

Bible Study (All Ages) 7:00 PM

[www.collinsville-troycoc.org](http://www.collinsville-troycoc.org)

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*For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)*

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## The Best or the Only?

-Renn Ferguson

It is often unsettling how Christians talk about the church. Unfortunately, many of our brethren view, and talk about the church as if it were a denomination. I have heard Christians say that the church of Christ is the “best”. Now, this is not necessarily incorrect but why is it the “best”? Is it just because we like it the most? Is it just because that’s where we grew up? Is it just because that’s where our spouse wants to go so that’s where we go? Or, is it the “best” because it is the “only”?

We live in a world that teaches that we should just go to the church of our choice. Whichever one has the most programs we like. Whichever one has the worship style that we like. Whichever one has a preacher we like the most. It is all about personal preference. Yet, what do we see in scripture?

Notice Jesus said in Matthew 16:18, “And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” Jesus made this statement right after Peter made the great confession that Jesus is the Son of God. Notice the singular nature of the church. Jesus did not say He would create hundreds and thousands of churches but a singular church.

Now go to another passage that discusses this idea. The apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 1:22-23, “And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.” This passage declares the fact that the church is the body of Christ. Why is that important? Well, notice Ephesians 4:4, “There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call”. The very first thing that Paul said in that verse is that there is one body. Well, if the body is the church and the church the body, what is the conclusion we must draw? There is only one church.

A final passage to notice is Ephesians 5:23, “For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.” Jesus is the savior of those in His body, His church. Therefore, the only church in which we can have salvation is the church Jesus built.

The church is not just the “best” church among many. It is the “only” true church, the body of Christ, and the avenue through which we must go to be saved.

