

Chapter 1 : International COGIC Women's Department " Just another Church Of God In Christ, Inc. site

*The International Churches of Christ is a body of co-operating religiously conservative, and racially integrated Christian congregations. Beginning with 30 members in they grew to 37 members within the first 12 years. Currently they are numbered at ,*

As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. On their main website , it is no coincidence that the following joining of hands coincidentally forms an Illuminati pyramid as seen everywhere in the corporate and religious world today. The symbol shows allegiance to the New World Order, whose god is Satan, whose anticipated leader will be the Antichrist. Of course, the picture to the right is the back of the U. Look at the image above from their main webpage. Who joins hands like that? I found other similar images on their webpages. The name of the game with the occult is secrecy. They try to hide occult images in plain site. They pride themselves in doing this. Their all from Hell beneath!!! The group teaches that water baptism is required for salvation. Over one million people Satan is a beautiful liar! It was known then as the Crossroads Church of Christ, and Lucas was the pastor. Lucas trained McKean in discipleship based on Robert E. The Church of Christ has its origins in the Reformation time in America, having branched off into literally hundreds of different religious cult groups since. Albeit, they all share the same corrupt core beliefs, doctrines of devils 1st Timothy 4: These four men are all Calvinists in their teachings. If one has murdered another person, he can not restore that person back to life. He can, however, help the widow and children of the man he has killed. If one has stolen money from another person, when he repents, he must return the money he has stolen. John the Baptist told the Pharisees and Sadducees to "Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance" Matthew 3: This is a doctrine of devils increasingly being taught in our churches today. Repentance is NOT difficult concerning salvation. Granted, love for sin prevents men from coming to the Light to be saved John 3: Biblical repentance unto salvation is simply a change of mind that causes a man to believe on Christ to be saved from his sins. The man who believes has repented, and the man who repents has believed. There are not two separate steps to salvation; but rather, two parts of one step. Salvation is NOT a process! Repentance and faith occur simultaneously when a person gets saved. Salvation is immediate, instantaneous and eternal, never to be undone. Salvation is a spiritual birth, not a decision or philosophy that can be changed afterwards. If saved, always saved! The Church of Christ clearly teaches a corrupted gospel Notice that water baptism is not required nor mentioned. Gordon Ferguson, a heretical evangelist in the Boston Church explained this in his series titled, Progressive Revelation: The terms of entrance that he was inspired by the Spirit to preach included baptism. Not only must one be baptized, but one must also be baptized in the Boston Church of Christ. If a person had been a member of some other church, then joins the Boston Church, they must be rebaptized because their original baptism was done in a false church and under a diluted set of false presuppositions. In Boston, we do not believe retroactive understanding is sufficient. Stage three focused on the need to be baptized with the conviction that baptism was indeed necessary for salvation. And as we have seen, you must also amend your ways and make restitution. May I say, you could never make things right, no matter how hard you may try. As mentioned earlier, the group presently has 84, churches worldwide in countries. As such it is harmless to the Church and work of Christ. Our most dangerous enemy is Satan creeping into our churches The greatest enemy of all is indifference not caring one way or the other what is going on in the world. I visit Baptist churches that sing Michael W. Roman Catholics love Michael W. Smith is indifferent toward the evils of Catholicism. False gospels have crept into nearly all of our churches. Hardly anybody is saved anymore. Satan convinces people that they can get to Heaven by being dunked in a baptistry and trying really hard to amend their sinful ways. It seems logical that one would have to right their wrongs and try to clean up their evil ways to be saved. It is the church of Satan! On their church websites, they openly teach that water baptism is mandatory for salvation. You should know that by baptism: You are saved from sins Mark Water baptism cannot save anyone!!! Here is what another demonic Church of Christ website teaches. When will God save you? Nowhere in the Bible was anyone ever water baptized until after they were saved. No one in the Old Testament was water baptized.

Here is a Bible study explaining Mark Perhaps the strongest Biblical evidence that water baptism is NOT required for salvation is found in 1st John 5: The word is not found in 1st, 2nd or 3rd John! The Apostle Paul plainly stated in 1st Corinthians 1: If, as many false prophets claim, water baptism is necessary for salvation; then there are two Gospels. However, the Bible does not teach that. In fact, Acts Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. What is Water Baptism Biblically? So what is water baptism then? A person is not married because they wear a wedding ring on their finger, anymore than a person would be an automobile for walking into a garage. If you get baptized, you are just getting a bath. A marriage is not consummated when rings are exchanged in ceremony; but upon union between a man and a woman, who have made a lifetime commitment to one another. This is why divorce is such a horrible sin, because it dishonors a lifetime vow made in the presence of God, and breaks apart a union which the Bible says God made. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. The wedding rings are significant because there is a marriage which they represent. Likewise, water baptism is significant in that there is faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ which it represents. Salvation comes by faith alone in Jesus Christ Galatians 3: There are MANY things wrong with the Church of Christ religion; but we know that they are following Satan because they teach the false doctrine of Baptismal Regeneration. I am not trying to be unkind, sincerely; but as a born-again Christian who loves the Lord Jesus Christ, it is my duty to contend for the Christian faith, defending the Doctrine of Christ. The Church of Christ is a misnomer, because they are neither a Church, nor do they know the Christ of the Bible. Whether it be the lying United Church of Christ, or the heretical Churches of Christ, the demonic Mormon Latter Day Saints, or the heathen Church of Christ; they all teach water baptism as a means of salvation, which is a false gospel. Religion is the worst thing that ever happened to this wicked world. The Bible does not tell us to follow religion. Jesus commanded us in John 5: This is why there are so many false cults in the world. I feel like Jacob who said in Genesis The best way to interpret the Bible is with the Bible, by cross-referencing Scripture with Scripture. When you read a passage of Scripture and think you understand the doctrine teaching , you verify that doctrine by making sure that it agrees with the rest of the Bible. All Scriptures must agree in harmony. With this truth in mind, the subject of water baptism is clearly understood when we consider all of the Scriptures as a whole. There is not one verse in the entire Bible that teaches water baptism as a means of salvation. Jesus taught Nicodemus in John 3:

**Chapter 2 : Witnessing to Disciples of the International Churches of Christ - Christian Research Institute**

*Disciples Today is the official website for the International Churches of Christ. We are a fellowship of over churches in more than countries around the world. We hope you enjoy our articles, videos and audio lessons as we strive to know God and make him known.*

Is the Church of Christ a good biblical church? There is no doubt that many in the Church of Christ group are genuine believers in Christ who desire to truly worship, follow, and obey Him. At the same time, there are others in the Church of Christ, and some Church of Christ churches, that are borderline cult-like in their preferences, practices, and doctrines. While we entirely agree that a church is well within the freedom God gives to not use musical instruments in worship, the problem is that some within the Church of Christ are fanatically against musical instruments. Some are fanatical to the point of declaring any church that uses musical instruments as not being a true, biblical, or godly church. Such dogmatism on a clearly non-essential issue is often the mark of a cult, not the mark of a good biblical church. By no means do all Church of Christ members believe this, but it is prevalent enough to warrant concern. This is completely unbiblical. There is no one church or denomination that encompasses the entire Body of Christ. The Church is composed of true believers everywhere, no matter the local church or denominational affiliation. The claim of exclusive access to salvation is another common identification of a cult, not the teaching of a good biblical church. Church of Christ advocates point to Scriptures such as Acts 2: There is no denying that baptism is very important. In the minds of the apostles and early Christians, baptism was so inextricably linked with salvation that the two were viewed as inseparable. The idea that a person could receive Christ as Savior and not be baptized was completely foreign to the early church. With that said, however, baptism is not required for salvation. There are biblically plausible and contextually valid interpretations of each of the above Scriptures that do not indicate baptism as being necessary for salvation. If baptism is necessary for salvation, these Scriptures are in error and the Bible is contradictory. They do not claim that baptism is a work that earns salvation, or in any sense makes a person worthy of salvation. Rather, the Church of Christ teaches that baptism is a work that God requires before He grants salvation. For the Church of Christ, baptism and confession are no different from faith and repentance—they are what God requires before He grants salvation to a person. The problem with this is that, while it may seem to be a subtle difference from the biblical doctrine of salvation by grace through faith, it is in fact a crucially important difference. A person who has genuinely received salvation will produce good fruit. Good works are the inevitable result of salvation Ephesians 2: Church of Christ advocates are right to denounce churches that teach intellectual assent to the facts of the Gospel as sufficient for salvation. The Church of Christ is right to reject the idea that a dead faith, a faith that produces no good works, is what saves a person. To say that good works must be present BEFORE a person is saved is to make salvation dependent on our obedience, which is works-salvation, not salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. This is a question that cannot be answered with an all-encompassing response. Many Church of Christ churches are in fact solid, biblically based churches. There are many Church of Christ churches which declare the true Gospel of salvation by faith alone, through grace alone, in Christ alone. This requires discernment on the part of a believer considering joining a Church of Christ church. The answer to the question depends entirely on which type of Church of Christ church it is.

**Chapter 3 : International Churches of Christ - Wikipedia**

*The International Church of Christ (ICC) is a break-off of the Church of Christ denomination. The ICC is Christian in its basic theology but has some aberrant practices. The ICC was influenced by the discipling movement on the 's. Its roots can be traced back to to the Crossroads Church of Christ, in Gainesville, Florida.*

This link has nothing to do with the topic of this page. Books on the International Church of Christ can now be found below in the links section. Please Note, the International Church of Christ has gone through major changes in recent times, and the information in this site may no longer apply to all congregations. Since then, it has grown to around one hundred sixty thousand members worldwide and occupies over one hundred nations. They claim to be the only true Christian Church, believing all who are not part of the "Body of Christ" are going to hell forever. Very little literature on this church exists, which why this paper was written. A perspective convert is invited to Church, and then to a "Bible study" with usually three church members, one being a leader. This potential member is then taught their understanding of the Bible, during about six consecutive "Bible studies. If this person agrees, he will soon be pulled into the life with his new found loved ones, commonly drifting apart from those he once considered friends and family. This group is extremely persuasive and their teachings on the Bible are close to what the Bible actually says, but the differences that do exist are significant. This is the verse they use to point to salvation: And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Upon examination, one could easily come to the conclusion "It is necessary to be baptized in order to be saved. Peter, while sharing Christs message with a large crowd said "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord. Why did Peter and John not even mention baptism if it is necessary for salvation? Did they just forget to tell them to be baptised? Did they not want the crowd of Jews to be saved? The correct answer is that Peter and John did not mention baptism because baptism is not necessary for salvation. Peter tells us in Acts 3: But what about the "Gift of the Holy Spirit. We see this to be the case in Mark But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire". Here, we see two distinctly separate baptisms, one in water, one in the Holy Spirit. Only one which saves. Not an immersion in water, but an immersion in the Holy Spirit. As for immersion in the Holy Spirit, I Corinthians Through the baptism of the Holy Spirit. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days. His water baptism occurred in Acts 9: Before this, Paul called Jesus "Lord" in Acts 9: He got up and was baptized," In Acts 9: The ICC has confused the physical and spiritual baptisms, believing they are one. Their basis for this belief can be found in Ephesians 4: Obviously, there are several "faiths", "lords", and "baptisms" in the known world, These verses are stating that there is only one Lord who saves, one faith which saves, and one baptism which saves, that baptism which saves has already been shown to be an immersion in the Holy Spirit, not water. So then, what is the purpose of the physical baptism? It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. When confronted with one of the many accounts in the New Testament of someone being saved without being baptized in water, ex. This verse does not say, "only while the Son of Man is on earth does He have authority to forgive sins. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. What is a disciple, a follower. If you are not following the teachings of Christ, how can you be following Christ? If you are not following Christ, how can you be a Christian and make it to heaven? No one comes to the father except through me. This statement to them means salvation through Jesus is necessary to make it to Heaven, but it is not all of that which is necessary. Believing salvation through Jesus alone is not enough alters the Biblical definition of salvation, thus undermining the power of Jesus death and resurrection. This is what the Bible says about salvation: Notice the word "guaranteeing. If I have the gift of prophesy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping from the flames. Eternity in heaven is a free gift, there is nothing that can be done to earn it. This

is one reason Christianity is unique among religions. The ICC believes this verse can be reversed, so that it means "if you obey God, you love him They even use obedience to God to measure an individuals love for God. This "reverse logic" does not work. The Pharisees obeyed Gods laws, did they love God? It is no wonder these groups are so successful, just look at their alternative. Members of The International Church of Christ have stated that their actions are largely done to gain Heaven. If Heaven is, in any way, attained by works, then attempting to make it to Heaven is self defeating. Given what has already been discussed, this is not well supported. Any church that makes membership in itself a requirement for admission into Heaven not the same as salvation according to the ICC is not following the Bible. This belief creates logical inconsistencies within the beliefs of that church. Whether stated explicitly by the church members or not, the "inner doctrine" is that the ICC is the Kingdom of God. The view that the ICC is synonymous with the Kingdom of God produces some theological inconsistencies. Although the New Testament authors occasionally refer to the kingdom in the present tense Col 1: It would have been incongruous to imply that members of the kingdom had not yet entered the kingdom. If successful, the ICC will convince the potential convert to put the group Kingdom above all other priorities in life. Seek the kingdom first of all the things in your life, all your obligations, all your worries. The kingdom of God -- his church -- should come first. It will be your priority or you are disobeying God. Study notes of ICC member, November A spurious "equation" has been manipulated to produce devotion to the group. Of course, word substitution makes for some dicey theology: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the ICC is greater than he. They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. Are they ashamed of their loathsome conduct? No, they have no shame at all; they do not even know how to blush. So they will fall among the fallen; they will be brought down when I punish them. This is a prophesy against ancient Israel. There are currently over four hundred "versions of Christianity" as the International Church of Christ puts it, and since I Corinthians If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. To be unified in the body of Christ means to be in complete submission to the head, Jesus, regardless of denomination. And for the right reason. Although the commitment exhibited by this group is attractive to many, what is really important is the motive behind their commitment. After learning of their beliefs, one cannot help but doubt their sincerity. After all, if they do not take the time to reach out to you, they may go to hell for not doing so.

**Chapter 4 : What is the International Church of Christ (ICOC), and what do they believe?**

*Welcome to the International Church of Christ. We are a non-denominational, Holy Spirit filled worship center where our passion for the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit provokes us to empower.*

This cult demands the serious attention of any Christian college group because their rapid growth is taking effect solely as a result of their campus ministries. Unlike most cults, this one believes only in the Bible. Their evangelists are very knowledgeable of the Bible, making it very easy for the Christian to be taken in. And they are very tricky about revealing their true theology, drawing one in a step at a time. This is not the traditional Church of Christ denomination. Affiliated regional churches across the nation begin with the name of their respective city. But one way of detection is to take advantage of their desire for a low profile: Also, the preface page of their hymn book has "Boston Church of Christ" as the publisher. Theology Their theology is false about the requirements of salvation. They believe one must believe in Jesus, repent, bear all the fruits of a disciple, and experience water baptism in that order to be saved. The Christian theology, however, is that you only have to believe. Since this cult considers a Christian who commits a sin to be unsaved in the first place, they separate from Christian theology concerning repentance. So the only agreement that can be made is belief in our Lord Jesus Christ. But unlike the thinking of this cult, the Christian belief is not just in the existence of Jesus as even the demons believe, but rather a belief that leads to repentance and obedience. For the Christian, all works, except believing, are done after salvation. And the conditions for remaining saved are the same as for getting saved. It first seeps in unconsciously during the intermediate stages of membership. They demand absolute submission without question to someone higher ranked in the church. They have a pyramid power structure headed by their church evangelist. Not only that, but they believe their sins are "covered" by their leader if their leader should order them to do anything sinful. Anyone inside who questions them is branded as weak spiritually and threatened with eternal damnation. After getting the person to confess their sins during initiations, they would use whatever personal information to brainwash and manipulate the person into obedience. They also make heavy use of scare tactics to ensure obedience. They will often give orders that have nothing to do with spiritual matters. They tell them what classes to take, what to major in, what career to enter, whom to date, and whom to marry. People in this cult are not afraid to tell you the name of their "church. Especially if you know that person is a student. It would be wise to ask how involved that person is before you inform. This cult goes after Christians! Spread this news to everyone in your Christian college group to be spread everywhere. How They Evangelize my personal experience with them I was involved with a member of the Detroit Church of Christ for almost two months. He was 20 years old and a student at my university. A total stranger, he walked up to me and asked if I wanted to study the Bible with him. I agreed, after I asked what church he attended. Later, I discovered he was their campus minister from Chicago assigned to take classes at my university -- a commuter campus miles from Chicago. We met almost twice a week alone on campus with a friend of his. He was later to be identified as his superior and he lead the study; he came in unexpected in the second meeting. After about two weeks of studies, they suggested that I join their church. They really pushed that their church was evangelizing far more than my church and that every member of their church lives like a disciple as the Bible commands us to. They really pressured me into going, asking me a lot of questions about my church. I really like my church. I honestly felt that no matter what I would say, they would come up with something better about their church. So I decided to go with them the next Sunday, just to visit. I was skeptical of them the whole time during the two months. I was educated in the area of the cults and decided at the first meeting that if this was a cult, I was in a no-lose situation: The second half of the two months was spent having a good time with more of their people, even with other new people like myself. Activities included going to a movie, playing basketball, and just hanging out. The Bible studies continued at the same pace. Keep in mind also that I had a lot of homework -- no free time left -- and they knew it. This was when the Bible studies started to reflect more of their real salvation theology. They made it all sound so biblical, basing it on many verses of the Bible. They pressed their argument and hurried on to the next supportive verse. I was still skeptical, but I believed what they said and started to tell other

people about it. I actually believed that I was still skeptical, but I really was not. I had changed without realizing it. At the end of the two months, I had free time in the gap between classes and exams to really think it through and to truly study the Bible on my own. They wrote notes for me at each Bible study. That night I could not sleep at all! I had known the Bible very well and had been a dedicated Christian for most of my life. The Holy Spirit kept revealing all kinds of verses to me that contradict what the ICofC had taught me. These were all verses I had known before -- I really know my Bible. Verses they had used wrongfully were revealed in their true context. I finally had to write them all down. Earlier, when I had time to think more clearly and study them, I had only stumbled across some of their false assumptions and logical errors. Nothing like the immense flood of truth that was now surging from the life within me. Two days later I met with all my friends from that church and expressed how they were wrong in their thinking. The leader sternly argued against me, but I defeated him at every turn. Even made him admit fallacies that utterly destroyed his position. They cast me out for being skeptical. This should be ample proof that their friendship was only to proselytize me into their church. Later, I discovered the evangelist knew this before he ever met me; he wanted me to influence the group for him. I was saved only by an act of God! Half of them were people I recognized -- from my church and from my campus group! These people were all Christians and I think it reasonable the other half were too. People in this cult like to put down their former churches, which they negatively call "religious. When I visited their church, almost everyone was college-age and I saw no complete families. This shows me that their campus ministries are their primary source of new people.

**Chapter 5 : ICOC HotNews | The International Churches of Christ**

*REVEAL is an organization of former members of the International Churches of Christ (ICOC, sometimes ICoC or ICC), and the International Christian Church (ICC)/Sold-Out Discipling Movement (SODM) and predecessor religious groups.*

While I may not agree with all of the authors viewpoints such as Bible versions this article does paint a "true picture" of the ICO I was personally "sucked" into the International Church of Christ movement without knowing it for about two months. A student at my university came up to me and asked, "Would you like to study the Bible with me? But two months later, with time to reflect on it, I was forced to leave as I discovered it was a cult. That student was their campus evangelist, even taking classes at my university. These are characteristics of that organization I witnessed: Withholding information about their organization. They only tell you the name of their church, which is " name of city Church of Christ. They may even deny association with Boston. If you visit their church, the preface page of their hymn book has "Boston Church of Christ" as the publisher. Plus, you may look for a leadership structure of campus evangelists, bible-talk leaders, zone evangelists, and church evangelists. Either that, or match them to the characteristics of any counter-cult publication about them. Taking verses about Christian living and using them as entrance requirements for salvation. The most severe passage they use is I John 2: They even use Acts 11 about the disciples being called "Christians" in Antioch. They say only disciples those who evangelize and teach can be Christians based on that verse. He started out with scattered verses about discipleship from Matthew, Mark, and Luke. They assume the Bible has a different salvation message to Jews than to Gentiles. In other words, they believe the Jews only had to believe in Jesus to be saved, with verses like John 3: The ICofC believes that the Jews were already obedient to God in the Old Law, were already spreading their faith, and were already baptized. The baptism part is the easiest to disprove, by the way. All they had to do was believe in Jesus, whom they had rejected. Whenever you point out a verse about simply believing in Jesus for salvation, they will immediately say, "That was for the Jews. Disarming the Book of Romans, saying it was written only to the Jews. You can read Romans 1 and get a different picture. They also believe that verses like John 3: They also think believing is a work, as Jesus said in John 6: Anyhow, Romans is a very powerful book, so they first try to stop you from using it. A theology that belief in Jesus is not enough, even being a disciple is not enough, unless you then get baptized in order to get saved. They would wait a while to present baptism. They progress from the "believe in Jesus" stage to the "discipleship" stage to the "baptism" stage, starting from historic Christianity and slowly moving to their cultic beliefs. Who knows what I would have learned if I had continued! They have a very good method of combining social events with Bible studies for new people. One thing to look for is this: They mingle only within their sphere, their church. Exclusivity and elitism is not mentioned--or even denied--but is practiced, which leads me to my seventh point. They will say one thing and do exactly the opposite. It takes a little time to notice things like this. For instance, they deny preaching "saved by works. You just need to put two and two together. They also say that independent Bible research and skepticism is okay, but then rebuke and expel you if you disagree with them even if based squarely on the Bible. At one point, I could list out 30 contradictions. I wish I had written them down back then! Demanding a new person submit a "sin list. They get personal information very early in their relationship with new people. They say it will help you measure your improvements. They use personal information to brainwash! Anything you do, even things outside the list, are not kept confidential. A leader might even tell you his past sins to motivate you. They study a list of sins in Galatians 5: This is their theology of repentance. Looks like salvation by works because they include sins of omission. I later saw contradictions in this by their actions. They believe you have to confess to church leaders to receive forgiveness. Strict obedience to leaders at all cost. They even give orders that have no spiritual significance. They tell you which school to enroll in, what classes to attend, what to major in, what job to take, whom to date, and whom to marry, etc. They believe your sins are "covered" by your leader if they order you to perform a sinful act, as long as you were obedient. Personal information from my sin list, for example, was used against me when I disagreed over a biblical point. After I won the point biblically and they knew it. Use of social attachment to keep the person in the

church. This is a corollary to point 6. As mentioned earlier, they do a good job of creating a social and emotional attachment. They are very loving. If the person wants to leave, they say something like, "Has any other group shown you so much love? How can you leave us? A leader may even boast about fasting three days for you. Social forces are also used, if needed, to get you to write a "sin list" or to move you forward on their agenda if you become hesitant. They believe you have to do the "works of a disciple" in order to be a disciple. That includes witnessing to someone. Naturally, this means evangelizing before you get saved. This corresponds to point 2. This is a corollary to point 9. This includes not obeying every commandment. They say, "How can you be serious and not obey God? Light and darkness illustration. They base their notion of a totally successful repentance needed for salvation on I Peter 2: They use a few other passages that have the words "light" and "darkness" in them. They do this very early, in just the second Bible study. They even go along with you, to keep you from suspecting something. Later on, they come back to this illustration and would strongly convince you otherwise. This illustration relies heavily on binary logic. No musical instruments in praise and worship. They meet in rented church buildings and often move from time to time. Most people I met used to attend Christian churches, which they negatively call "religious. Almost everyone ranged in the college and career age and I noticed no complete families. In fact, they do a lengthy and detailed Bible study just on this. They knew I already knew this about Jesus, but continued to cover all the basics. That was in the belief stage. I asked them about what the term "Son of God" means and they always managed to change the subject. They used the term quite often. Their attitude about sin is excellent. Their attitude about evangelism is also most excellent. The verse should not be used for salvation. However, just "opening the door and letting Him in" appears to contradict their harsh teaching on repentance. Rauch no copyright - duplication and distribution is highly encouraged e-mail:

**Chapter 6 : Is the Church of Christ a good biblical church?**

*Answer: The International Churches of Christ (ICOC) is a spin-off from the Churches of Christ; both groups are non-denominational, worldwide associations of churches and part of the Restoration Movement. The ICOC has a network of over non-denominational churches in about countries.*

Written by Mark Vrankovich. The information on the ICC has not been updated since We will add additional information soon. Otherwise the following article appears as it did in The very foundations of the International Church of Christ have been rocked by the resignation of its founder and leader Kip McKean. Many suspect, of course, that the reasons given are probably a smoke screen designed to hide the primary shortcoming which has forced McKean to resign. Everybody wanted to be like Kip see quotes below. He is the originator of many of the foundation ICC practices and doctrines. I walk into a church, I know all I need to know about that minister. Let me tell you something, your church is going to be just like you. Current members need to seriously reevaluate their involvement in the man made edifice that is called the International Church of Christ. They should not be fooled by the cosmetic damage controlling reorganizing of ICC leadership, the ICC in essence has not changed. During their time away they should diligently research the other side of the story, the side the ICC leadership do not want you to know. The links at the bottom of this page are a great place to start your research. It means you can follow God instead of men. It means coming to understand that your salvation is not based on membership of a church, but rather on your status before God. Follow God, not man! Overview Founded in in Boston, Mass. Recognised worldwide for its harmful discipling practices and mind control techniques. It has all the traits necessary to classify it as a mind control cult, including the teaching that it is the one true church, love bombing, deceptive recruiting, time control, relationship control, and the rest. Wanting to get a branch in every major city with more than , people by the year , the group is very evangelistic, using church plantings to start new branches. As an example of how this works, the original Boston branch planted the London, England branch, who started the Sydney, Australia branch, who planted the Auckland, New Zealand branch which resulted in Cultwatch being started. However this rapid expansion leads to members burning out “ sometimes after just a few months. Discipling One-over-one discipling, rather than one-on-one discipling. The discipler has the right to tell the disciple to do anything, including what to wear, where to work, and who to marry. Each person has a discipler “ someone who has authority over them, who has the right to tell his or her disciple what to do. Ultimately everyone is being disciplined by McKean, and hence following him. At one stage almost all of the men in the Central Auckland Church of Christ were wearing goatees because the then leader of that branch had a goatee. Of course, this means that ultimately they are imitating Kip McKean. This is especially noticeable in preaching style. This is what two other ICC leaders said on this subject: I want to be just like him. When he tells me things to do, you better believe I listen. And as I think back on the course of my relationships with Kip, I can tell you honestly, there are few times that I bucked Kip. And I can tell you honestly that I did wrong every time. It was not right to be arrogant, to be proud, to be rebellious! I want the guys who I am discipling to want to be like me. I just want to be exactly like Kip. That would be enough. I want to preach like him. I want to think like him. I want to talk like him. The average ICC member is convinced they are trying to follow Jesus, but the reality is that they are following McKean. There are also many other areas where its practices and beliefs violate scripture.

*The International Church of Christ (ICC) is a Christian based mind control cult. It has all the traits necessary to classify it as a mind control cult, including the teaching that it is the one true church, love bombing, deceptive recruiting, time control, relationship control, and the rest.*

There are a number of branches of the Restoration movement and the ICoC was formed from within the Churches of Christ. That year he started a new project known as Campus Advance based on principles borrowed from the Campus Crusade and the Shepherding Movement. Centered on the University of Florida , the program called for a strong evangelical outreach and an intimate religious atmosphere in the form of soul talks and prayer partners. Soul talks were held in student residences and involved prayer and sharing overseen by a leader who delegated authority over group members. Prayer partners referred to the practice of pairing a new Christian with an older guide for personal assistance and direction. This activity became identified by many with the forces of radical change in the larger American society that characterized the late sixties and seventies. By , as many as a hundred people a year were joining the church. Most notable was the development of a training program for potential campus ministers. By the mid-seventies, a number of young men and women had been trained to replicate the philosophy and methods of the Crossroads Church in other places. By his ministry grew from a few individuals to over three hundred making it the fastest growing Church of Christ campus ministry in America. Meanwhile, the epicenter of the new philosophy of ministry training and evangelism began to shift from Florida to Massachusetts. This began to cause a tension with the larger Church of Christ leadership that would eventually lead to a complete split. Parallel to this, the Boston Church of Christ began to plant new congregations at unprecedented speed for the Church of Christ at the time. The Boston congregation sent church plantings to Chicago and London in , New York shortly thereafter, and Johannesburg in June Yeakley passed out three different MBTI tests, which asked members to perceive their past, current, and five-year in the future personality types. A majority of those respondents changed their perceived or imagined personality type scores on the three different tests in convergence with a single type. The data, however, does prove that there is a group dynamic operating in that congregation that influences its members to change their personalities to conform to the group norm". By , McKean was regarded as the leader of the movement. That year, McKean and his family moved to Los Angeles to lead the new church planted some months earlier. Within a few years Los Angeles, not Boston, was the fulcrum of the movement. In the Crossroads Church of Christ broke with the movement and, through a letter written to The Christian Chronicle , attempted to restore relations with the mainline Churches of Christ. This governing system attracted criticism as overly-authoritarian, [27] although the ICOC denied this charge. Added to this was the loss of local leaders to new planting projects. In some areas, decreases in membership began to occur. On 12 November , McKean, who had led the International Churches of Christ, issued a statement that he was going to take a sabbatical from his role of leadership in the church: Some changes were initiated from the leaders themselves and others brought through members. The Elders, Evangelists and Teachers wrote a letter to McKean expressing concern that there had been "no repentance" from his publicly acknowledged leadership sins. The plan encompasses the need to strengthen existing small churches and plant new churches. The churches form 30 regional families of churches that oversee mission work in their respective geographic areas of influence. Each regional family of churches sends Evangelists, Elders and Teachers to an annual leadership conference, where delegates meet to pray, plan and co-operate world evangelism. No longer can one man make sweeping decisions that affect all the churches, considering that many of those churches he may never have visited. Building unity and consensus through prayer and discussion takes time but is worth it. The spiritual fruit of the Delegates Conference in Budapest is testimony to the success of this much less authoritarian approach to that which we had in the past. One implication of this doctrine is that, while Christians may separate themselves into different, disunified churches as opposed to just geographically separated congregations , it is not actually biblically right to do so, and so such separations are not likely to take place between groups of Christians who are obedient to the Bible. While no one claims to know who exactly is part of "the universal church" and who

is not, the ICOC believes that anyone who follows the plan of salvation as laid out in the scriptures is added by God to his "One Universal Church". The MTA consists of twelve core courses that are divided into three areas of study: Each course requires at least 12 hours of classroom study in addition to course work. An MTA student who completes the twelve core classes receives a certificate of completion. Some function as appendages of the church; others are entirely unrelated in their mission and activities. In Central America, 53, paediatric exams and 58, adult medical exams have been conducted with 23, prescription written. A "Financial" rating of An "Overall" rating of 3 out of 4 stars, with the Overall score of Those involved were able to apologize and initiate an environment conducive to building bridges. A few leaders of the Churches of Christ apologized for use of the word "cult" in reference to the International Churches of Christ. The International Churches of Christ leaders apologized for alienating the Churches of Christ and implying they were not Christians. Despite improvements in relations, there are still fundamental differences within the fellowship. Early saw a second set of dialogues with greater promise for both sides helping one another. Harding University is contemplating a distance learning program geared toward those ministers who were trained in the International Churches of Christ. Through holding that their doctrine is based on the Bible alone, and not on creeds and traditions, they claim the distinction of being "non-denominational". Members of the International Churches of Christ generally emphasize their intent to simply be part of the original church established by Jesus Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection, which became evident on the Day of Pentecost as described in Acts 2. They believe that anyone who follows the plan of salvation as laid out in the scriptures is saved by the grace of God. They are a family of churches spread across nations of the World. They are racially integrated congregations made up of a diversity of people from various age groups, economic, and social backgrounds. The eternal purpose of any Christian is to know God and to glorify him as God, and let our life shine so others will see God. Our devotion and ultimate loyalties are to the Father, who is over all and in all and through all; to Jesus the Son, who has been declared both Lord and Christ; and to the Holy Spirit, who lives in us and empowers us to overcome the workings of the sinful nature Acts 2. The cornerstone of our faith is our belief in Jesus Christ. Everything we hold dear in our faith originates from his words and his way of life John 3. The Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God. It is sharp, powerful, effective, challenging, exposing, and encouraging when it is revered, studied, preached, taught, and obeyed because it is from our Creator and therefore relevant for all generations 1 Tim 4. Our salvation totally depends on the work of God, prompted by his own mercy and grace, not our good deeds. As we go about this mission, our testimony must be consistent with a Christ-like life of doing good deeds and supporting and encouraging other Christians and churches around the world. One unique element in ICOC tradition is the lack of established church buildings. Congregations meet in rented spaces: Though the church is not static, neither is it "ad hoc" – the leased locale is converted into a Worship Facility. You put your money into people who reach out to more people in order to help them become Christians. This building was designed by the Japanese architect Fumihiko Maki. One Year Challenge[ edit ] To provide an international service opportunity for college-age students, the ICOC has a program called the "One Year Challenge" OYC , where graduating students take a year off and go and serve another church in the Third World [70] or a recently planted church in the First World looking to reach younger people with the gospel. All are encouraged to invite guests as a way for the guest to be introduced to the Church in a more informal setting. The Bible Talk is very similar to the "cell group" or "small group" structure found in many churches to facilitate close relationships amongst members. Discipling[ edit ] Disciples are student-followers of Jesus Christ. Members who have mentoring and accountability relationships "discipling" believe that this practice is based upon and encouraged by Biblical passages like: They also cite numerous examples of such relationships found in scripture like Moses and Joshua, Elijah and Elisha, Jesus and the early disciples, Paul and Timothy. Jesus paired the apostles for the mission. Matthew 10 Both types of relationships are essential to lead people to maturity. A number of ex-members have expressed problems with discipling in the ICOC. We know that we blew it in this area in the past. We also feel that we have grown. As far as we know, no churches assign the partners everyone chooses for themselves , and all respondents were very convicted about the need for relationships that are not harsh or bossy, but rather Biblically balanced, respectful, and mature. The students set a new World Record by holding

a lightsaber battle with lightsabers being used, bettering the old record by These lightsabers were then donated to orphans. News and World Report ran an article in discussing proselytizing on college campuses. Hadden , responded "[e]very new religion experiences a high level of tension with society because its beliefs and ways are unfamiliar. But most, if they survive, we come to accept as part of the religious landscape". They also said that the truth is "the church has been a very positive influence in the lives of the USC students in recent years. Today the CR ministry continues to flourish especially in larger cities like Seattle, where a thriving group led by Paul Martin a Deacon of the Seattle Church of Christ Family holds a monthly open house.

**Chapter 8 : International Churches of Christ EXPOSED!**

*Much of the focus of church administrators over the past several months has been the consideration of the various proposals of ICOC The Administration Service Team exists primarily to assist with the effective implementation of the church's evangelistic vision and to .*

They sound evangelical and they claim the Bible is their only source for doctrine. Such similarities are superficial. ICC disciples their terminology are members of one of the fastest growing heretical movements in the world. Why classify this seemingly Bible-based organization as heretical? To warrant this designation, a sect must deny one or more of the cardinal tenets of the historic Christian faith. A Faulty View of Grace. While purporting to believe in salvation by grace through faith Eph. With these additions ICC departs from the gospel of grace, which is the sufficiency of the redemptive work of Jesus Christ for all who believe 1 Cor. The latter two, as conditions of salvation rather than as results of it, are works. Once you become a disciple, then you can be baptized, but you cannot be baptized until you become a disciple. Other problematic areas in ICC include inadequate views of the perfection of God and Christ,<sup>16</sup> exclusivity,<sup>17</sup> an unbiblical form of authority,<sup>18</sup> and elevation of certain historical biblical occurrences to the level of normative doctrine e. In principle, preparation for witnessing to disciples is similar to the preparation necessary for reaching members of other cults. Most members fervently believe there is no valid reason to leave their church. Leaving it would be tantamount to forsaking God. If we make one, we admit it and correct it. International Churches of Christ: Fortunately, the desire to know and serve God and a commitment to the Bible as the Word of God provide a foundation for dialogue. Establishing an agreement on the criteria for evaluating the gospel ICC promotes is the next step in exposing the works-based gospel of this movement. A conversation might begin something like this: I understand your church teaches that it alone is the movement of God. We only teach what the Bible teaches. There may be others out there who have come to the truth that only baptized disciples are saved. If they are really good-hearted, they will want to be with true disciples. Do you believe a Christian church must present the gospel without adding or subtracting anything from it? Would you examine the gospel with me? That sounds fine, except I prefer not to meet with anyone else yet. Certain comments made by the disciple should be noted. Unless the Christian is careful, he could lose control of the conversation. Only baptized disciples are saved. To demonstrate the untenableness of this interpretation, it is important to have several reference works available: Spatial constraints limit this discussion to the disciple aspect of their salvation formula. The following conversation demonstrates an approach to refuting one of their departures from this gospel of grace “becoming a disciple as a prerequisite to salvation. Christian appears three times in the New Testament, and disciple occurs more than times. To whom does disciple refer? Disciples were first called Christians in Antioch Acts If disciple, Christian, and saved are synonymous, they can be used interchangeably<sup>27</sup> for disciples in Matthew Well, maybe not, but Jesus commanded us to be disciples to be saved. Do you believe Jesus, God the Son, could make a mistake when he spoke? Can we agree Matthew was inspired by the Holy Spirit, and the Bible is inerrant? Then, if Jesus wanted to convey a different meaning, this passage would be worded differently. In Greek and English, a pronoun must refer to a noun, not a verb. In Greek, make disciples is a verb. Have the member look up this form of disciple in an expository dictionary. Thus, the pronoun, them, must refer to the noun, nations. According to this grammatical rule, we must conclude Jesus cannot be teaching that a person must be a disciple before he is baptized or saved. But if them refers to nations, how can you baptize a nation? Baptizing a whole nation would be tough. However, baptizing and teaching are participles. As participles, they must refer to the verb, make disciples. These participles describe how a disciple is made, by being baptized and taught. They are not commands that you must do certain things to be a disciple, and then be baptized to be saved. To make disciples, and then baptize them, is not what Jesus commanded. What about the nations? The Greek word for nations is ethnos. Have the disciple locate nation in an expository dictionary. And to whom is Jesus speaking? Of what race were they? Did they believe the Messiah was to come for the Jews, or for the whole world? They believed Jesus came for the Jews. What new teaching was Jesus conveying to the disciples? They were to begin preaching to all people, not just

to the Jews. Afterward, Jesus commanded them to go to all nations. Did you need to know Greek to study as we just did? Could there be any reason your leaders, some of whom have seminary training, or anyone else, could not study this passage just as you have? Instead, they added to the passage, and included the work of being a disciple as a requirement for salvation. Would you read Proverbs Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar. Maybe we made a mistake here. But Jesus still said we have to be His disciples, so what difference does it make? We are to be his disciples. Disciple is another word for follower, and all people who know Christ as Savior are His followers. But to live as a disciple before being saved is not something we can do, nor would Jesus require us to do so. In fact, we cannot live the regenerate life of a disciple until after salvation, when the Holy Spirit indwells and empowers us, and changes us from within. To expect people to change and live a godly life by themselves, instead of by the power of God, is expecting the impossible. Adding requirements to the gospel of salvation makes a mockery of His grace. This may be wrong. Do not underestimate the dynamics of this movement. Sadly, numerous stories exist of successful witnessing efforts with ICC disciples that within 24 hours or less were reversed. He will be subjected to a variety of coercive tactics: You have let us and God down. We were depending on you. Terrible things will happen to you. A dog returns to its vomit. You probably were never a Christian in the first place. If we have offended you, give us the opportunity to reconcile. Their agenda is not to address doctrinal issues, but instead to rebuke him for his current decision, past sins which supposedly had been forgiven , and problems he had while a member. Confused and under immense pressure, the ex-member might re-embrace ICC. To prevent this tragedy, the individual should not be alone when confronted by ICC members. Encourage him to write a letter of dissociation. Above all, do these things in love, with patience, gentleness, and respect. Joanne Ruhland is in countercult ministry, specializing in the International Churches of Christ. Box , San Antonio, TX, Discipleship Publications International, , Bethany House Publishers, , xii, Discipleship Publications International, August , audiotape , side two. Discipleship Publications International, n. Christian Research Journal, Winter , , Story, 3 July , Christian Research Institute Our Mission:

**Chapter 9 : REVEAL Library: Cult Alert! The International Church of Christ**

*International Churches of Christ (ICOC) has 17, members. This is the International Churches of Christ Facebook Group. You can also find news articles.*

Are these principles truly taught in the Scriptures? We cannot deny that we need to be disciples of Christ; after all, He is the Master Teacher, and we are to heed Him, as is illustrated in Matthew. It is enough for the disciple that he be as his teacher, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more them of his household! The Scriptures do not teach, however, that one must decide to be a disciple before one can be baptized. An example is Acts 2: We do see in Acts 2: They then that received his word were baptized: Therefore, they can be rightly called disciples of Christ and of the Apostles, yet this action is performed after their initial belief and baptism. Let us again return to Matthew. Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: We may have some pertinent information concerning this in Acts. And it came to pass, that even for a whole year they were gathered together with the church, and taught much people, and that the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch. Nevertheless, it is evident in the need to teach what Jesus has commanded that a need exists to assist those who are younger in the faith. Is this a job that is to be given to one specific individual? Let us read the Scriptures in Galatians 6: Brethren, even if a man be overtaken in any trespass, ye who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; looking to thyself, lest thou also be tempted. We see in Romans. For I say, through the grace that was given me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think as to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to each man a measure of faith. For even as we have many members in one body, and all the members have not the same office: And having gifts differing according to the grace that was given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of our faith; or ministry, let us give ourselves to our ministry; or he that teacheth, to his teaching; or he that exhorteth, to his exhorting: We are all equal in Christ; nowhere is any Christian in any way superior to another. The only difference between Christians is of different roles. An elder oversees the congregation; this does not in and of itself mean that the elder is superior to any other Christian. The evangelist brings the word of God to the congregation and the outside world; this does not mean the evangelist is a better Christian than any other member of the congregation. In Christianity, there is a communion of believers assisting each other, thus eliminating the need for one specific individual to watch over another specific individual, a relationship not authorized in the Scriptures. Therefore, the process of growth of an individual in the faith is not dependent on having another individual watch over him, but instead requires the assistance of the whole congregation in building up and strengthening not only the young members and the converts but everyone within that body. The practice of discipling, therefore, is not in accordance with the Scriptures. This is also done with the discipler. Furthermore, many times the ICOC published and circulated to its members lists of individuals and the sins they have confessed, so people can pray for them. Are these practices based in the New Testament? Confess therefore your sins one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The supplication of a righteous man availeth much in its working. Does this verse teach that we must confess our sins to one another? Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: James is therefore making a commandment to those who are sick, that he or she confess their sins so that they may be forgiven, and that this may lead to healing. This passage by no means binds the confession of sins to one another as required. We are given principles in the New Testament concerning confession to one another in Matthew. But if he hear thee not, take with thee one or two more, that at the mouth of two witnesses or three every word may be established. And if he refuse to hear them, tell it unto the church: We can see that it is beneficial to confess our sins to one another, that we may receive assistance and prayer, so that we may be built up. We further see that sins that are committed that come to the attention of the church ought to be confessed and repented of, and this is illustrated further in 1 Corinthians 5: Confession of sin to one another therefore is surely beneficial, but is not to be bound upon any individual. It ought to be an action done on the

volition of the one who has sinned so that he or she may be uplifted. There is only one person to whom our confession of sin is required to be given: God, seen in 1 John 1: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Therefore, the Scriptures teach that we must confess our sins to God, and we may confess our sins to each other in order to receive edification. Much of the information in the above paragraphs comes from [http:](http://)