

Article Of Faith 6

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We believe in the same organization that existed in the Primitive Church, namely, apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists, and so forth

I believe this stems from the following scripture in the bible:

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:¹

It's interesting the article states both *pastors* and *evangelists*, neither of which appear in the LDS Church today. They aren't offices of the priesthood that you can achieve. Perhaps they are simply titles that aren't really used? I'm not sure. According to Google, pastors are bishops and evangelists are patriarchs in the LDS Church. Interesting thought if you ask me.

In Matthew, we find:

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.²

Christ knew He would build a church based on apostles, it would be an apostolic church. He called twelve disciples, and they followed Him teaching of Him and healing in His name. I haven't been able to find in the Bible where it states that Christ established a church. I can see Paul talking about church and whatnot, but never an official establishment made by Christ Himself.

In fact, many scholars believe the church was established in Acts 2 on the Day of Pentecost. That same day, the Holy Ghost was felt among the people and each man heard in his own tongue, or language, the words spoken.³ This takes place *after* Christ had been resurrected and ascended to His Father.

¹Ephesians 4:11-13 (KJV)

²Matthew 16:18 (KJV)

³Acts 2:6 (KJV)

Roughly 400 years after Christ, the Book of Mormon talks about the Church of Christ in Moroni Chapter 6. It says they met together oft, those who were baptized and had their name taken down. It also talks about what happens if there is offense and non-repentant. Those names are blotted out, and they are not counted among the Church of Christ.⁴

In the end, it wasn't Christ that established His church, He hinted at it, but didn't establish it. Men established Christ's church on the Earth. Does this constitute Religion being a man made construct? Or were they simply doing the best they could with the knowledge they had at the time.

⁴Moroni 6:7 (BOM)