

Who Are the Christadelphians?

We are often asked to write about the Christadelphians, the community who produce *Glad Tidings*. We rarely do so, because our focus is the Bible as the Word of God, and we encourage everyone to read it for themselves. However, we hope this summary is helpful.

The name 'Christadelphian' consists of two Greek words: *christos* and *adelphi*. Together they mean Brothers (and Sisters) in Christ, that is, associated with or belonging to Christ.

Members of the community meet in small and large groups, which are usually called ecclesias. This is the Greek word for an assembly or church, is used to make it clear we are talking about the people, not the building.

There are Christadelphians in many countries of the world, for example in Australia and New Zealand, across Africa, in the Caribbean, South America, Canada, and the USA; across Europe from the UK to Russia and Norway to Italy; across Asia, including India, Nepal, and the Philippines.

We are brothers and sisters 'in Christ'. We have no priests, pastors or bishops, and no one is in any way superior to another. The Lord Jesus Christ is our Head.

Christadelphians believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, and is the only basis for our beliefs and teaching. We have no controlling church council.



The Christadelphians

Each Christadelphian ecclesia selects from its members a secretary, a treasurer and a small committee to administer day-to-day affairs.

All Christadelphians are independent, and encouraged to preach the Gospel whenever the opportunity arises. Some are chosen to speak at public meetings or are asked to be missionaries.

The Christadelphian community relies only on its own members to contribute money to expenses of individual ecclesias or shared activities, to help the sick and elderly, to pay for Sunday Schools, Youth Clubs, Children's Homes and missionary work (such as literature, travel and adverts).

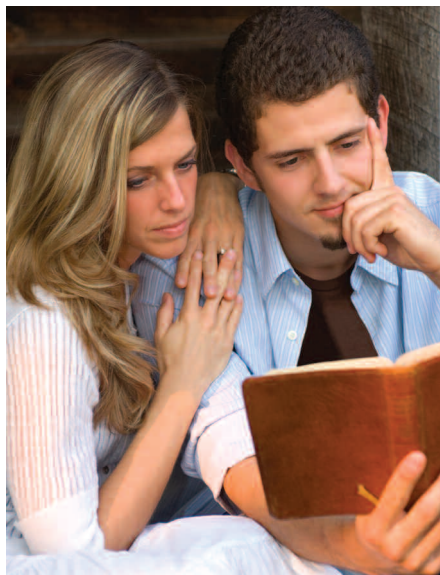
We are not a charity organization that collects money from the general public and distributes it to those in need. We do, however, contribute to several national and international charities.



We are not paid for any of the services we perform, whether we are secretary, preacher, missionary or Sunday School teacher. All is done in a spirit 'as to the Lord'.

We do not spend vast sums of money building churches and temples. Ecclesias may meet in homes or hired public rooms, but often in their own simply furnished halls.

If someone wants to become a member of the Christadelphian community, the procedure in the Bible is followed: a person hears the Gospel, understands it, believes it, repents of his or her sins and associates with Christ by being baptised.



We meet together as often as possible for worship, to give and receive encouragement and to remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ by sharing bread and wine as taught by Jesus himself. We also meet for preaching the Gospel and for Bible Study.

Christadelphians are no better than anyone else. We acknowledge that we are sinners and continually in need of forgiveness. We will only be made perfect when Jesus returns to the earth and invites his followers to be in his Kingdom.

We do not take part in politics or vote for human governments. We are waiting for the Kingdom of God under the one and only world ruler, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Christadelphians do not join the army, navy, air force or police. Such service would be opposed to the teaching of Jesus (John 18:36; Matthew 26:52). Most countries allow conscientious objection to these types of services.

Christadelphian teaching seeks to follow exactly that taught by the Lord Jesus Christ and his apostles. It is not influenced by man-made doctrines or rituals, nor does it change to suit mankind's ideas.

Christadelphians Believe and Teach That...

- ① The Bible is God's written message to men and women. The writers were instructed and inspired by God.
- ② The God revealed in the Bible is the only true, living God, the Creator of all things. He is immortal.
- ③ God has a wonderful purpose with the earth and with men and women upon it.
- ④ Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He was born to the Virgin Mary by the

operation of God's special power called the Holy Spirit.

⑤ The Kingdom of God will be set up on earth when God's appointed King, Jesus Christ, returns in person to the earth. He will establish peace, justice, true worship and right living among all nations.

⑥ The Christian Gospel, or Good News, as taught by Jesus Christ, invites men and women to believe this good news and live for ever in God's new world.

⑦ The Bible teaches that we are all sinners, and that we are all mortal and will eventually die. Death is really the end of life and we know nothing when we are dead. We need to be saved from remaining dead.

⑧ God has appointed Jesus Christ as the Saviour of mankind. He lived a life of service and obedience to his Father (God). He taught people about the hope of living for ever in God's Kingdom. He did no sin. Wicked men killed him by crucifixion (that is nailing him to a cross) and his body was placed in a grave.

⑨ Because Jesus did no sin, he could not justifiably stay in the grave. God raised him from the dead and gave him immortality, which means he now lives for ever.

⑩ God accepted the death of Jesus as a sacrifice for sin, and will forgive the sins of all who believe the teaching of Jesus and associate themselves with him.

⑪ We show that we belong to Jesus Christ by being baptised after we have

understood and believed the Gospel and repented of our sins. Baptism as taught in the Bible, is a complete immersion in water. It marks the end of our old way of life and the beginning of a new life.

⑫ When Jesus returns to the earth, all people from throughout history who are judged faithful will be granted immortality and will live for ever in his kingdom.

⑬ The nation of Israel are God's special people. Their return to their land was foretold by the Bible and they must eventually accept Jesus Christ whom they crucified.

⑭ God's Kingdom will begin with Israel, and will eventually include all the population of the earth.

⑮ Events in the Middle East are a sign that God is still concerned with the nation of Israel.

⑯ In obedience to the command of Jesus Christ, true Christians meet regularly to remember the sacrifice of Jesus by sharing bread and wine.

This is a very short summary of God's plan with the earth and with men and women upon it. *Glad Tidings* regularly covers the different aspects of it in more detail, so please do keep reading.

If you wish to know more, please do access our previous articles and magazine editions online at:
<http://www.gladtidingsmagazine.org/previous-articles/>

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