

# The Church

We rejoice over all people of every age and nation who are children of God by faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior<sup>11</sup> and therefore belong to the Holy Christian Church.<sup>12</sup> Yet, in our earthly religious associations, God asks us to unite (worship, pray, and commune) with those who follow His Word<sup>13</sup> and out of love for God and concern for souls to stay away from harmful error (e.g. false teachings, those causing divisions, etc.).

## **<sup>11</sup> Galatians 3:26**

*For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.*

## **<sup>12</sup> Ephesians 2:19-20**

*Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone.*

## **<sup>13</sup> 1 Corinthians 1:10**

*Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*

## **Matthew 7:15**

*Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.*

## **Romans 16:17-18**

*Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.*

## **2 Corinthians 6:14-18**

*Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people." Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."*