

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS THE ISRAEL OF GOD

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The book of Galatians reveals “the church of Christ is the Israel of God” in chapter 6 verse 16, “And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.” Please, bear in mind that the book of Galatians is written to “the churches of Galatia” (Galatians 1:2). Let’s take notice of what God originally required of ancient Israel and what He requires of the church today.

Moses wrote to Israel, “And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, To keep the commandments of the Lord, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?” (Deuteronomy 10:12-13).

God’s Requirements for Israel

- 1) Fear the Lord thy God.
- 2) Walk in all His ways.
- 3) Love Him.
- 4) Serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul.
- 5) Keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord.

God’s Requirements for the Church

- 1) Fear the Lord thy God. Acts 9:31; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Philippians 2:12; Revelation 15:4.
- 2) Walk in all His ways. Romans 6:4; Galatians 6:16; 1 Thessalonians 2:12.
- 3) Love Him. Matthew 22:37; Mark 12:30-33; Luke 10:27; Romans 8:28; 1 John 5:3.
- 4) Serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul. Matthew 4:10; 1 Thessalonians 1:9; Hebrews 9:14; 12:28; Revelation 7:15; 22:3.
- 5) Keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord. Luke 8:15; 11:28; John 8:51-55; 14:15; 15:10; Acts 16:4; 1 Corinthians 11:2; 1 John 2:3; 3:22; 5:2-3; Revelation 14:12.

Notice that what God originally required of ancient Israel, He requires of the church today. Ancient Israel disobeyed and forsook God (2 Chronicles 7:22). As the church of Christ continues to receive the teaching of the Word of God with an open heart and an open mind, the church will continue to bring glory to God as the faithful, spiritual Israel of God today (Ephesians 3:21). “And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God” (Galatians 6:16).