

## The Church of God (Cleveland, Tennessee)

The Church of God (Cleveland, Tennessee) is a Protestant Christian denomination with a global presence.

- **Origins:** Founded in 1886 in Monroe County, Tennessee, by Richard Spurling, a former Missionary Baptist minister.
- **Growth:** The movement grew, and the official name, "Church of God," was adopted in 1907.
- **Expansion:** The Church of God has experienced significant global growth, with a strong presence in the United States, Latin America, and other parts of the world. The Church of God (Cleveland, Tennessee) has an estimated global membership of over 3 million.
- **Note:** The Church of God (Cleveland, Tennessee) is a diverse and dynamic denomination with a strong emphasis on evangelism, missions, and community service.

More info: <https://www.cogtn.org/>.

### Core Beliefs:

- **Trinity:** Belief in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as the one God.
- **Bible:** The Bible as the inspired and inerrant word of God.
- **Salvation:** Salvation is received through faith in Jesus Christ.
- **Holiness:** Emphasis on the importance of living a holy life, free from sin.
- **Pentecostal Experience:** Emphasis on the baptism of the Holy Spirit, often evidenced by speaking in tongues.

### Practices and Rituals:

- **Holiness Emphasis:** A strong emphasis on holiness living, which includes avoiding worldly practices and striving for personal sanctification.
- **Worship Services:** Services are often characterized by energetic worship, with singing, dancing, and spontaneous expressions of the Spirit.
- **Speaking in Tongues:** Considered an important spiritual gift.
- **Healing Ministries:** Emphasis on divine healing.
- **Foot Washing:** A symbolic act of service performed during worship services.

### Leadership Structure:

- **Hierarchical:** The Church of God has a hierarchical structure with pastors, district superintendents, and a General Overseer.
- **General Overseer:** The highest-ranking official of the denomination.

### Main Symbols:

- **Cross:** The cross remains a central symbol of Christian faith.
- **Dove:** Symbolizing the Holy Spirit.