A PLEA FOR CHRIST

Introduction: 1. At times charges have been leveled against the Lord's church, accusing her of being smug and self righteous.
a. Rather than pleading with people to come to the cross, we have pleaded for them to come to us.
2. However, such an accusation is unfounded.
a. (I John 1:1-3).
b. (I Corinthians 11:1).
3. As long as we remain at the foot of the cross, we can rightfully call people unto ourselves.
4. The question for resolution is: "Are we standing at the foot of the cross?"
5. Let us then examine if our pleas are Christ centered.

I. WE PLEAD FOR THE NAME OF CHRIST
A. (Philippians 2:9) His name is above every name.
B. (Acts 4:12) There is no other name given whereby we must be saved.
C. (Acts 11:26) The disciples were called Christians.
D. (I Corinthians 1:10-13) There is division in other names.

II. WE PLEAD FOR THE PERSON OF CHRIST
A. (John 1:1,14) Jesus was the "God-Man".
B. (Genesis 3:15; Galatians 4:4) He was born of a virgin.
C. (Matthew 1:23; Colossians 2:9) He was fully God.
D. (Hebrews 4:15; Luke 19:10) He was fully human.

III. WE PLEAD FOR THE WORDS OF CHRIST
A. (Mark 13:31) The words of Christ will not pass away.
B. (Psalms 119:89) God's word is settled in Heaven.
C. (John 12:46) Christ's words will judge us.
D. (Psalms 119:105) God's word provides us direction.
E. (II Timothy 3:16-17) God's word is sufficient.

IV. WE PLEAD FOR THE CHURCH OF CHRIST
A. (Matthew 16:18) Jesus promised to build His church.
C. Facts about the church for which we plead.
   2. Form of government (Philippians 1:1).
   5. Rule of conduct (II Timothy 3:16-17).
V. WE PLEAD FOR UNITY IN CHRIST

A. (John 17:20-21) Jesus prayed that His disciples might be one.
B. (Ephesians 4:3) We are to work for unity.

Conclusion:
1. After examining that for which we are pleading, you decide if we are standing at the foot of the cross.
2. I am convinced that we can rightfully call people unto ourselves, and in so doing also be calling them to Christ.
   a. Not because of our own power to save.
   b. But because of our location.
3. Before we can all be united in Christ, we must first be united in our pleas for the Name, Person, Words, and Church of Christ.