

# Explanation of New Directory Abbreviations

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There has been some confusion over the system of abbreviations found in the new church directory, so it seemed wise to attempt to explain the rationale behind this new system as well as the abbreviations themselves. Since the purpose of a directory is to help members of the congregation to get to know one another better, especially newer members, we have determined that the additional abbreviations seemed advantageous to expedite a better understanding of those represented. Therefore, we hope that the following explanation of the new abbreviations will help.

An asterisk (\*) indicates that the person has not obeyed the gospel to become a member of the Lord's one Body (1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 4:4-6). This one is not new.

SMO stands for "Sunday Morning Only." If you want to speak to these people, you must catch them on Sunday morning, because they may not even realize the church assembles in the evening (Heb. 10:24-25; Mt. 6:33).

POC stands for "Pew Only Christian." These people would not miss worship or Bible study, but find it hard to do much else for Christ (1 Cor. 15:58).

H stands for "Hypocrite." These are the people who want "member of the Church of Christ" in their obituary, despite the fact that it is likely to shock people who know them well (Mt. 23:1ff).

ACP stands for "Always Causing Problems." These are the malcontents famous for complaining about the way things are done though they rarely contribute one whit to the Lord's work (Rom. 16:17).

HSM stands for "Haven't Seen in Months." It is highly recommended that you study these pictures closely so that you will know these members should you ever see them.

U stands for "Unfaithful." These are the people who, according to the New Testament, should have been withdrawn from, but have not been as of yet (2 Th. 3:6).

FC stands for "Faithful Christian." These are the people who attend regularly, are actively involved in the Lord's work, are the ones who give as they ought, not as they must. They are the volunteers and the Bible students, the ones whom not only the congregation but also the Lord can count on (Rev. 2:10).

Now, before everyone scrambles for a directory, I'll admit that we did not actually use the system cited above. But what if we had? What abbreviation would have accompanied your name? I do not mean to make light of a serious situation, but my hope is that this will expose some serious problems that often exist without rebuke. Having your name in *our* directory is not nearly as important as the accompanying "abbreviation" that is found by your name in *God's*.