



Swift Current Christian Tae Kwon Do Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the history and origin of Tae Kwon Do?

"Traditional Tae Kwon Do" typically refers to the martial art as it was established in the 1950s and 1960s in the South Korean military, and in various civilian organisations, including schools and universities. Today, the Kukkiwon, or World Tae Kwon Do Headquarters is the traditional center for Tae Kwon Do in Korea.

The oldest Korean martial art was an amalgamation of unarmed combat styles developed by the three rival Korean Kingdoms of Goguryeo, Silla, and Baekje, where young men were trained in unarmed combat techniques to develop strength, speed, and survival skills. The most popular of these techniques was subak, with taekkyeon being the most popular of the segments of subak.

Those who demonstrated strong natural aptitude were selected as trainees in the new special warrior corps, called the Hwarang. It was believed that young men with a talent for the liberal arts may have the grace to become competent warriors. These warriors were instructed in academics as well as martial arts, learning philosophy, history, a code of ethics, and equestrian sports. Their military training included an extensive weapons program involving swordsmanship and archery, both on horseback and on foot, as well as lessons in military tactics and unarmed combat using subak. Although subak was a leg-oriented art in Goguryeo, Silla's influence added hand techniques to the practice of subak.

During this time a few select Silla warriors were given training in taekkyeon by the early masters from Goguryeo. These warriors then became known as the Hwarang. The Hwarang set up a military academy for the sons of royalty in Silla called Hwarang-do, which means "the way of flowering manhood." The guiding principles of the Hwarang warriors were based on Won Gwang's five codes of human conduct and included loyalty, filial duty, trustworthiness, valor and justice. Taekkyeon was spread throughout Korea because the Hwarang traveled all around the peninsula to learn about the other regions and people.

In spite of Korea's rich history of ancient and traditional martial arts, Korean martial arts faded into obscurity during the Joseon Dynasty. Korean society became highly centralized under Korean Confucianism and martial arts were poorly regarded in a society whose ideals were epitomized by its scholar-kings. Formal practices of traditional martial arts such as subak and taekkyeon were reserved for sanctioned military uses. Civilian folk practice of taekkyeon persisted into the 19th century.

2. What is the difference between Christian Tae Kwon Do and regular Tae Kwon Do?

The answer is that there is no difference in the art of Tae Kwon Do, but the difference is in the belief system of the school that teaches Tae Kwon Do. Hollywood has portrayed martial arts as an eastern mystical journey for its disciples and in many cases, this is false.

While some teachers of Tae Kwon Do may incorporate eastern religion and meditation into their school, there are schools that focus strictly on the art of Tae Kwon Do. Christian-based Tae Kwon Do teaches Biblical principles and seeks to evangelize through this art.

3. Is there any form of mediation or eastern philosophy in Christian Tae Kwon Do?

No. We seek the Holy Spirit of the Bible and to be guided always by the Indomitable Holy Spirit.

4. Are there other Christian Tae Kwon Do schools in North America?

Yes. Under the United States Chung Do Kwon Association, there are Christian schools operating in every state, British Columbia, Ontario, Russia ... and Saskatchewan!

5. Who is the instructor and is he qualified to teach?

The instructor for Swift Current Christian Tae Kwon Do is Gary Voysey. He has spent the past five years under Master Dean Siminoff (5th Dan) teaching students of all ages. Master Siminoff trains directly under Grandmaster Ed Sell, a 9th degree Black Belt (highest ranking non-Asian in the world).

6. Are the belts that are awarded through Swift Current Christian Tae Kwon Do legitimate?

Each belt earned is registered with the United States Chung Do Kwan Association and is recognized by the World Tae Kwon Do Federation and Kukkiwon.

7. What organization is Swift Current Christian Tae Kwon Do affiliated with?

The United States Chung Do Kwan Association (est. 1967).

8. What do the fees include?

Fees include uniforms, membership, patches and portfolios.

9. When and where do classes take place?

See the class schedule at: <http://christiantkd.com/classes/>

10. How do I sign up?

Call us at (306) 741-4652 or come by a class!