

Church – Your New Community

When we receive Christ, there is more to it than just a “personal relationship” with Him. God adopts us into His family, the Church. God does not intend for us to live as hermits, we have a family that transcends culture and time.

What is “church”?

ekklesia, *ek-klay-see'-ah*; from a compound of Greek 1537 (ek) and a derivative of Greek 2564 (kaleo); a *calling out*, i.e. (concretely) a popular *meeting*, especially a religious *congregation* (Jewish *synagogue*, or Christian community of members on earth or saints in heaven or both) :- assembly, church.

-- Strong's Exhaustive Concordance

A gathering of believers in which there is:

- Proclamation of the Word
- Administration of the sacraments
- Enforcement of discipline

-- John Calvin

It denotes the whole body of the redeemed, all those whom the Father has given to Christ, the invisible catholic church (Eph 5:23-29; Hebrews 12:23).

-- Easton's Bible Dictionary

A gathering of believers in which there is:

- Leadership by people meeting Biblical qualifications
- **W**orship
- **I**nstruction
- **F**ellowship
- **E**vangelism
- **A**dministered with excellence

-- Pastor John Woodall, Reston Bible Church

Church exists wherever there are believers covenanted together sitting under the Word of God in order to hear it and obey it.

-- The Crowded House, a church plant in Sheffield, England (www.thecrowdedhouse.org)

Church – Your New Community

THE CHURCH – ITS PEOPLE

1 Corinthians 12:12,13 **Its people**

Is any gathering of Christians a “church”? Why or why not?

THE CHURCH –ITS PURPOSE

Ephesians 2:19-22 **Exalt God**

Ephesians 4:11-13 **Equip the saints**

1 Peter 2:9-15 **Evangelize the world**

How would the absence of any of these affect a church’s health?

Should church services be designed for Christians, non-Christians, or both? Why? How would you implement your plan?

CHURCH LIFE

- All Christians are members of the priesthood (1 Peter 2:9; Heb 4:14-16).
- Each believer has a purpose in the Church (2 Timothy 1:9).
- Participation is expected of all believers (Romans 12:1-13; 1 Corinthians 12).
- Giving is expected of all believers (2 Corinthians 9:6-11).
- Our fellowship is a purposeful witness for Christ (John 13, 34,35; 1 Corinthians 14:24,25).
- Christians are subject to church discipline (Matt 18:15-17).
- Believer’s baptism is an outward sign of inward profession (Acts 8:26-38).
- The Lord’s supper is to be celebrated with other believers (Mark 14:22-25; 1 Corinthians 11:23-34)

**Participation in a HEALTHY SMALL GROUP
is essential to give and receive
the benefits of BIBLICAL CHURCH LIFE
in our culture!**

Church – Your New Community

THE CHURCH – ITS GOVERNMENT

Jesus Christ is the head of the Church (Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 5:22-33).

Overseer, bishop, elder, pastor – essentially the same

1. Elders are to be appointed in the congregations (Titus 1:5)
2. Plurality of elders (Phil 1:1; Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5; Acts 20:17)
3. Deacons are to care for service needs (Acts 6:1-4)

Elders are not superior to other church members, but we are under their authority and are to honor and respect them (Hebrews 13:17; 1 Thess 5:12,13).

The essence of spiritual authority (Dr. Baker, MGS TH-520 Notes)

Servanthood Matthew 20:25-28; John 13:12-16; 1 Peter 5:1-4

Exemplary 1 Timothy 4:6-12

Source (from God) Hebrews 13:1-7; 2 Corinthians 13:2-4

The duties of elders (Dr. Baker, MGS TH 520 Notes)

Instruction 2 Timothy 2:14-16

Exhortation 2 Timothy 4:2

Oversight 1 Timothy 3:5; 5:17; Hebrews 13:17

Styles of organization

Denominational hierarchy (Bishop, priest, deacon)

Elder led (elected by congregation)

Congregational – one vote, one man

THE CHURCH – ITS ORDINANCES

Communion/Lord's Supper

Luke 22:14-20 c.f. Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 10:1-18

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

Baptism