

What is the Church?

GOD'S PLAN FOR THE CURRENT DISPENSATION



*"...shepherd the church of God **which He purchased with His own blood.**"*

Acts 20:28

*"I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is **the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.**"*

1 Timothy 3:14-15

What is the Church supposed to **be**?

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Biblical Christianity is a heart matter,
and our actions should flow from that.

What is the church?

"church" simply means a
"congregation, gathering, assembly;
people called together."

*"...upon this rock **I will build My church**; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it."*

Matthew 16:18

When did the church begin?

Mid-Acts: when Paul was saved or began his ministry

End of Acts: when he wrote the "pastoral epistles"

Acts 2: Spirit baptism on Pentecost

*"You will receive power **when the Holy Spirit has come upon you**; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."*

Acts 1:8

*"And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them **just as He did upon us at the beginning.** And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, 'John baptized with water, but **you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.**' Therefore if God gave to them the same gift as He gave to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?"*

Acts 11:15-17

*"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit...**"*

Acts 2:1-4a

*"Even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. For **by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body**, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."*

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

*"For He Himself is our peace, who made **both groups into one** and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall...so that in Himself He might make the two into **one new man**, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile them both in **one body** to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. . . . So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of **God's household.**"*

Ephesians 2:14, 15b, 16, 19

Illustrations for the church

Jesus the Head, Church the Body

Ephesians, Colossians; 1 Corinthians, Romans

Illustrations for the church

Jesus the Vine, Believers the Branches

John 15

Illustrations for the church

Jesus the Shepherd, Church the Sheep/Flock

John 10 & 21; Hebrews 13:20-21;

1 Peter 5:1-4; Acts 20:28

Illustrations for the church

Jesus the Cornerstone, Church the Building/House/Temple

Ephesians 2:20-22; 1 Corinthians 3:9-15; 6:19

Illustrations for the church

Jesus the Bridegroom, Church the Bride

Ephesians 5:22-33; John 14:2-3; Luke 12:36;

2 Corinthians 11:2

Illustrations for the church

NEVER...

Jesus the King, Church the Kingdom/Subjects

The church is not. . .

Israel

Does not continue

Does not fulfill

Does not replace

*"It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are the names of **the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel**. ... And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of **the twelve apostles of the Lamb**."*

Revelation 21:12, 14

The church is not. . .

Israel

God's Kingdom

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has **blessed us with every spiritual blessing
in the heavenly places in Christ.**"*

Ephesians 1:3

*"These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. **In the world you have tribulation**, but take courage; I have overcome the world."*

John 16:33

*"All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus **will be persecuted.**"*

2 Timothy 3:12



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God's Plan for the Church

The Dispensational Uniqueness of the Body of Christ



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