

INTRODUCTION TO ECCLESIOLOGY

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For

Baptist International

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COURSE STATEMENT

This course is an introduction to what the scriptures say about the church. We take a look at each verse in the Bible that uses the word "church" and puts it in perspective with the others to get the definition and meaning of the church. We take a look at the basic precepts and commands that the church was given along with the methods that it is to carry out these commands.

I. ALL THE VERSES WITH THE WORD "CHURCH" IN THEM HAVE TO BE WRITTEN OUT.

II. CONTENT OF THE COURSE.

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THE WORD "CHURCH"

Lesson #2

*114 + 3 = 117
P'script*

- I. THE WORD "CHURCH" IS USED 115 TIMES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.
 - A. "Ecclesia" is the Greek word for church.

- II. THE WORD "ASSEMBLY" APPEARS 3 TIMES IN ACTS CHAPTER NINETEEN.
 - A. What is the New Testament Church?
 1. It is a local assembly of believers.
 - B. If we study the meaning of the word "church," we will discover God's meaning and we will avoid alot of error.

Communion
1 Cor 10, 11
John 6

I. IT STARTED BEFORE PENTECOST.

A. Sixteen proven facts that the church was started before Pentecost:

1. The disciples were already gathered together - John 1:33-51.
2. The 12 disciples were chosen before Pentecost - Luke 16:12-16;
Mark 3:18, 19.
3. Jesus said "I will build my church" - ~~Matt. 16:18.~~
4. They had a treasurer., ordination, Lord's Supper, baptism, visitation,
before pentecost.
5. Jesus taught and trained them for three years. - (Christ) Head over church Eph
6. Jesus sent them out to work - Matt. 10:1-16.
7. There were at least 82 preachers involved - Matt. 18:20; Luke 10:1.
8. They were all baptized by John or the disciples.
9. The institution of the Lord's Supper was there.
10. He gave the Great Commission before Pentecost - Matt. 28:19, 20
11. The Church met together on the Lord's day and the Holy Spirit came as a Comforter 50 days before Pentecost - John 20:19-23.
12. The Holy Spirit filled the church - Acts 2:1-4.
13. They held a business meeting before Pentecost - Acts 1:15-26.
14. 3,000 were added unto the Church.
15. Jesus said "I will build My church..." - Matt. 16:18; 18:17.
16. Jesus was in Heaven at Pentecost.

Apostles, before pentecost

were called, chosen

Baptized, called Apostles

and rec'd H.G.

before Pentecost

John 20:22

Eph. 4:11

" 2:19-22

1 Cor 12:28

I. ECCLESIA

- A. An organized assembly whose members have been properly called out of a private home to attend a public meeting.
- B. A particular part of Christ's baptized assembly on earth.
- C. Any particular assembly by itself alone.
 - 1. No organization.
 - 2. No unity.
- D. The assembly that is visible and spiritual. .
 - 1. They were all saved.
 - 2. They were all baptized.
- E. Prescribed terms of membership.
- F. The membership was limited.
 - 1. Salvation.
 - 2. Baptism.

A Local Body of Bap. Believers who have covenanted themselves together to carry out the Com. of Christ

II. GLORIOUS CHURCH - EPHESIANS.

- A. It will happen at the Second Coming of Christ.
- B. Two Assemblies.
 - 1. Now, on earth.
 - 2. In Heaven.

Eph 1:10

I Kings 6:7, 8

Doctrine of Church

5 points here

I. WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

To Do:

A. Groupings for the church.

1. Local church is to love God - Rev. 4.
2. Glorify God - Eph. 1.
 - a. Through praise and prayer - Psa. 50:23; Heb. 13:15.
 - b. Through fruit bearing - Jn. 15:8. *Song of Solomon*
 - c. Through giving - Phil 4:18.
 - d. Through preaching and ministering of the Word - I Pet. 4:11.
 - e. Through our loving - Rom. 16:5, 6.
 - f. Through our acknowledgement of God the Son - Phil. 2:9-11.
 - g. Through believing God's Word - Rom. 4:20.
 - h. Through suffering - Jn. 21:18, 19; I Pet. 4:14, 16.
 - i. Through witnessing - II Thess. 3:1.
3. Display God's grace - Eph. 2:7; 3:6; I Pet. 2:9.
4. Evangelize the world - Mk. 16:15; Matt. 28:19, 20; Acts 1:8.
5. Baptize believers - Matt. 28:19.
6. Instruct believers - Matt. 28:19; I Tim. 4:6; 6:17; II Tim. 2:2, 24, 25; Phil. 4:8, 9.
7. Edify believers - I Cor. 14:26.
8. We are to discipline the believers.
 - a. Self-discipline.
 - b. Sovereign discipline.
 - c. Church discipline.
9. Provide fellowship for the believers.

10. It is to care for it's own in the time of need - II Cor. 8,9.
11. Provoke Israel to Jealousy.
12. Prepare rulers for the Kingdom.
13. Promote all that is good - Gal. 6:10.
14. Preserve, Multiply, & Distribute God's Word
Rom/6:25,26

I. CHURCHES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

A. 23 New Testament churches.

1. Jerusalem - basically pastored by James - ~~half brother of Christ~~.
They practiced baptism, the Lord's Supper, and sent out missionaries (book of Acts chapters 2-21). Peter had a lot to do with the church.
2. Syria (Antioch of Syria) - founded during the persecution period of Stephen. Barnabas was the first pastor. Paul was in a sense the assistant pastor. They were both there about one year. Acts chapters 11-16. The believers were first called "Christian" here. It was the center of missionary travel outside of the church. Silas came from this church. Gal. chapter 2. It was a normal Baptist Church.
3. Pisida - Paul began this church on his first missionary journey. Paul preached his first sermon here. All he even did before this was give his testimony. Paul turned from reaching the Jews to reaching the Gentiles also.
4. Lystra - Paul started this church on his first missionary journey also. Paul healed a man at this church. This is where Timothy began to follow Paul.
5. Derbe (nothing said about this church).
6. Iconium - Paul started this church. The unbelieving Jews chased Paul out of town.

- of Peter? Act 2 Jesus Acts 8 1/2 bro of Jesus (James) Acts 10 - Gentiles

7. Philippi - Paul organized this church in the home of a woman. The demon possessed girl was healed here. Also, the Philippian jailor was saved here. Paul sent Timothy back to this church - they had a problem with legalism.
8. Thessalonica - Paul founded this church on his Second missionary journey. He caused a great enthusiasm among the people by preaching a simple gospel (he kept his message to the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ). These people were not good Bible students; they wouldn't do things for themselves. It was a good soul-winning church - II Thess. 3.
9. Berea - it was commended for its love and knowledge of the Word of God - Acts 17:11.
10. Athens - Paul preached his message on Mars hill. We can't tell if a church was actually located here - they may have had to go elsewhere.
11. Corinth - Paul started this on his Second missionary trip. He was here one and a half years. They were confused about a number of things. Paul taught the people, but the false teachers came in and caused confusion. Apollos passed through the church.
12. Ephesus - Paul founded it on his Second missionary journey. John, Timothy, or Apollos may have pastored. Diana was challenged here. The only New Testament church mentioned

that received letters from two men, Paul and John.

13. Troas - Acts chapter 20, not much said.
14. Rome - Paul wrote the book of Romans to them. Priscilla and Aquila were here.
15. Galatia - they fell victim to the legalists.
16. Colosse - Epaphras put this church together. Philemon attended this church.
17. Babylon - I Peter. A lot of suffering among the believers due to ~~sin~~ persecution (Nero)
18. Smyrna - suffered much.
19. Pergamos - center of demonic/Satanic worship (Catholic Baal worship).
20. Thyatira - good deeds.
21. Sardis - strengthen the little good that remained.
22. Philadelphia - it wasn't strong, though it obeyed God's Word.
23. Laodicia - worst New Testament church mentioned - it was lukewarm.

I. UNITED - ACTS 2:44; Eph. 4:27.

- A. The church did things as a whole.
- B. They never did anything unless they did it in unity.

II. STEADFAST - ACTS 2:42; Eph. 4:14-16.

- A. Doctrine.
- B. Fellowship.
 - 1. Fellowship one with another.
 - 2. Their purpose was getting the gospel to the lost.
- C. Ordinances
 - 1. They had the Lord's Supper.
 - 2. They baptized.
- D. Prayer
 - 1. They prayed in one accord, and received answers.
 - 2. They were a praying church.

III. CHARITABLE - ACTS; EPHESIANS.

- A. They sold their possessions and gave to all men as they needed.
- B. They gave according to Biblical needs.

IV. JOYFUL - ACTS AND EPHESIANS.

- A. Continually in the Temple with happy hearts.
- B. The Roman Emperor didn't know how to control the people because of their growth.

C. This church had favor with God and man.

Start here

Discipline - penalize an individual for breaking the law and restoring him.

I. BASIS FOR DISCIPLINE.

A. Holiness to God - I Pet. 1:16; Heb. 10:30.

B. The authority resides with Christ.

Maintain holiness among God's people

Church is vehicle by which Lord judges

AMT. 18:18-20



II. WHO ARE THE DESERVING OF DISCIPLINE?

(when they refuse to repent)

A. Troublemakers - those who sow discord - Prov. 6:16,19.

B. Unruly, disorderly, undisciplined - I Thess. 5:14; II Thess. 3:6, 11.

1. No control over the flesh.

C. Those who disobey ~~the great doctrines of the faith~~ - II Thess. 3:14, 15

(the word of God)

of Christ and doct. according to God's men

D. Those who deny the ~~great doctrines of the faith~~ - I Tim. 6:

3, 5; II Tim. 2:16-18; Titus 3:10; I Jn. 1:10, 11; Rev. 2:14, 15; 2:2

III

E. Immoral - I Cor. 5:1-~~7~~.

Gal. 5:7-12

Fellowship

III. PROCEDURES IN DISCIPLINE.

A. How is church discipline to be handled?

1. Prayerfully.

2. Carefully.

3. Justly.

B. What are the steps?

*second mtg
w/
2 or 3*

- 1. Mark them (note them) - Rom. 16:17; II Thess. 3:14.
- 2. Private meeting(s) - Matt. 18:15.
- 3. Take others with you to another meeting(s) - Matt. 18:16
II Tim. 4:2; Titus 3:10
 - a. Admonish
 - b. Rebuke
 - c. Warn~~ing~~



- 4. Take it before the church - Matt. 18:17; I Tim. 5:20.
- 5. Refusal in following church discipline - II Thess. 3:6,14
I Tim. 6:3, 5.
 - a. Separate yourself spiritually. *them and* Mt 18:17
 - b. Denial of Christian fellowship. *No not so much as eat*
 - c. Deliver him unto Satan - I Cor. 5:5; I Tim. 1:20;
Job 2:6. *for destruction of flesh
sin unto death - I Jns:16*

I Cor 5:11

IV. HEART ATTITUDE IN DISCIPLINE.

- A. Avoid vengeance and arrogance - Gal. 6:1.
 - 1. Erring brother, and not an evil enemy - II Thess. 3:15.
- B. Avoid Sarcasm - II Cor. 3:2.
- C. Be forgiving when he repents - II Cor. 2:7; 7:10, 11.

D. Don't overlook sin in the church

V. PURPOSE OF DISCIPLINE.

- A. Four purposes for disciplining.
 - 1. Maintain the standards of the church to the watching world -

Jesus talked about it - Matt. chapter 5; Paul talked about it - Acts chapter 5.

2. Keep the sin from spreading throughout the church - Josh. 7:3; I Cor. 5:6, 7.
3. Help the guilty person find his way back to God - II Cor. 2:6-8.
4. To escape God's two-fold judgment on the habitually sinning saints - I Cor. 11:30, 31.
 - a. Sickness (continually in sin)
 - b. Death (continuing in sin)

VI. REACTION TO DISCIPLINE.

A. The Church is only to discipline.

1. Directly from God.
2. Through the local church.

B. Dis^{Not}pise It - Heb. 12:5.

C. ^{Don't}Faint under it (~~treat it too seriously~~) - Heb. 12:5.

D. ^{be}Exercised by it - Heb. 12:11.

- ~~1. Don't react quickly to what they do.~~
- ~~2. Think before you react.~~

*Flesh
World
Devil*

Ephesians 6:10-18

I. SATAN (THE ENEMY).

- A. The one that is fighting against us is not the one we should fight - it is Satan.
- B. Daniel 10 - Satan has placed his ^{rulers} generals over nations.
 - 1. Matt. 17 - world rulers.
 - 2. Mark 5 - demons.
- C. Spiritual wickedness - demons concentrating on world religion.
- D. Eph. 6:14-17 - the armour of the saved person.
 - 1. It secured the soldier in battle.
 - a. Girdle of truth - a Christian has to have this in battle or nothing else will work for him - vs. 14.
 - b. Breastplate of righteousness - protects the heart of the soldier - vs. 14.
 - c. Feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace - sandals bound tightly for firmness of footing - vs. 15.
 - d. Shield of faith to quench the fiery darts of the wicked - made so the arrows of the enemy would bounce off - Heb. 11.
 - e. Helmet of salvation - protects the head and the brain... meditating on Scripture to gain knowledge...our mind will be safe, our ears won't be deaf, our eyes won't go blind ...the helmet will protect us.
 - f. Sword of the Spirit - it is an offensive weapon (Heb. 4: 12) everything else is defensive.

*John 1:8-22
Satan uses:
• Saboteurs v.15, v.17
• Supernatural (Fire) v.16
• Natural v.19*

I. DOING A JOB FOR GOD.

- A. Prayer.
- B. Time element.

NOTE: People aren't standing in line to work for the Lord.

- The Church is the vehicle which carries the truth from one century to the next.
- You build to be fired, that someone else superceeds you.

Deut. 31:12, 13

II. BUILDING THE CHURCH.

- A. Those you need
 - 1. Men
 - 2. Women
 - 3. Children
 - a. Nursery
 - 4. Stranger (visitor)
- B. When they are gathered together, they need to
 - 1. Hear
 - 2. Learn
 - 3. Fear the Lord your God
- C. Neccessity of the nursery
 - 1. Hear
 - 2. Learn to fear the Lord
- D. Only one pastor (one common denominator) - Acts 20:17; 16:4, 5

1. Associates
2. Secretary

NOTE: Everything depends on leadership.

E. Two times to serve the Lord

1. In season (when you feel like it)
2. Out of season (when you don't feel like it)

- Your biggest enemy is yourself - be alert of situation.
- An essentials unity, not an essentials liberty.
- There are some 900 plus various religions.
- God is not going to do anything for you that you can do yourself.
- ~~The Old Testament was written in Greek. Greek is the language of power.~~
- A persecution complex is a bad disease.
- "Have a hide as tough as a rhinoceros, and a heart as tender as a baby."
- Being called to the ministry is the highest calling under Heaven - Rom. 10:8-17.

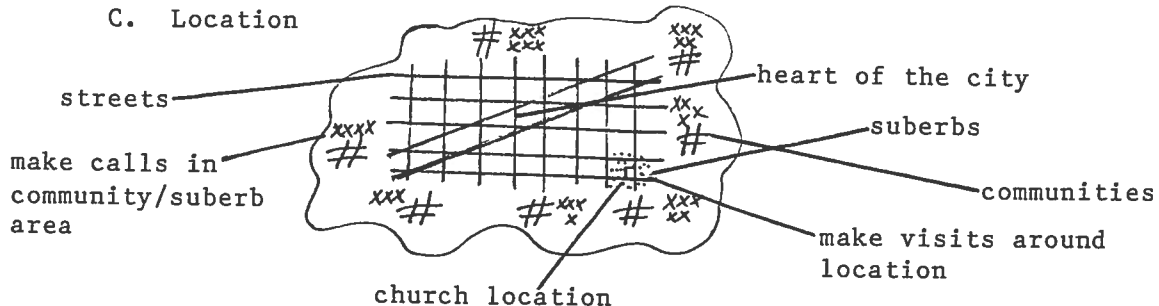
III. STARTING A CHURCH.

A. Prayer

B. Place (town, city)

1. Doctrine is immutable (unchangeable)
2. The Church is immutable (unchangeable)

C. Location



1. A place to live
 2. Church services
- What you start...finish. Especially when it comes to your schooling.
1. Graduation Diploma
 2. Catalogue (manual)
- Tracts are called devotionals.
- Not housewife - "homebuilder."
- Nothing succeeds success like success.

many had them
my church
church of J.C.

USE OF "CHURCH" IN THE BIBLE

Matthew 16

18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Matthew 18

17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

Acts 2 *judgement*

47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Acts 5 *Baptized Acts 2:41*

11 And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

Acts 7 *referring to the congregation of Israel*

38 This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:

Acts 8

1 And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.

3 As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.

Acts 9

31 Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

Acts 11

22 Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch.

for he met the assembly...
Heb.
26 And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

Acts 12

1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.

5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

Acts 13

1 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

Acts 14

23 And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

27 And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.

Acts 15

3 And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren.

4 And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them.

22 Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren:

41 And he went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches.

Acts 16

5 And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.

Acts 18

22 And when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up, and saluted the church, he went down to Antioch.

Acts 19

37 For ye have brought hither these men, which are neither robbers of churches, nor yet blasphemers of your goddess.

Acts 20

17 And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church.

28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

Romans 16

1 I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea:

4 Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.

5 Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Salute my wellbeloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ.

16 Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.

23 Gaius mine host, and of the whole church, saluteth you. Erastus the chamberlain of the city saluteth you, and Quartus a brother.

I Corinthians 1

2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

I Corinthians 4

17 For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.

I Corinthians 6

4 If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church.

I Corinthians 7

17 But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches.

I Corinthians 10

32 Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:

I Corinthians 11

16 But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.

18 For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it.

22 What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not.

I Corinthians 12

28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

I Corinthians 14

4 He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

5 I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.

12 Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

19 Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.

23 If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?

28 But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

33 For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

34 Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law.

35 And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.

I Corinthians 15

9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

I Corinthians 16

1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye.

19 The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.

II Corinthians 1

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia:

II Corinthians 8

1 Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;

18 And we have sent with him the brother, whose praise is in the gospel throughout all the churches;

19 And not that only, but who was also chosen of the churches to travel with us with this grace, which is administered by us to the glory of the same Lord, and declaration of your ready mind:

23 Whether any do inquire of Titus, he is my partner and fellowhelper concerning you: or our brethren be inquired of, they are the messengers of the churches, and the glory of Christ.

24 Wherefore shew ye to them, and before the churches, the proof of your love, and of our boasting on your behalf.

II Corinthians 11

8 I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service.

28 Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

II Corinthians 12

13 For what is it wherein ye were inferior to other churches, except it be that I myself was not burdensome to you? forgive me this wrong.

Galatians 1

2 And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia:

13 For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it:

22 And was unknown by face unto the churches of Judaea which were in Christ:

Ephesians 1

22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

Ephesians 3

10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.
Ephesians 5

23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Philippians 3

6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.
→ Philippians 4

15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.

Colossians 1

18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:

Colossians 4

15 Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the church which is in his house.

16 And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.

I Thessalonians 1

I Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I Thessalonians 2

14 For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews:

II Thessalonians 1

I Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

4 So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

I Timothy 3

5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

I Timothy 5

16 If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed.

Philemon 1

2 And to our beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellowsoldier, and to the church in thy house: *in Colosse*

Hebrews 2

12 Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

Hebrews 12

23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

James 5

14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

I Peter 5

13 The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son.

3 John 1

6 Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well:

9 I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.

10 Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.

Revelation 1

4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

Revelation 2

1 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

8 And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

12 And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;

17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

18 And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;

23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

29 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 3

1 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write: These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 22

16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

SIMILAR VERSES USING "BODY"

Romans 12

4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:

5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

I Corinthians 10

16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

17 For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.

I Corinthians 12

12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

14 For the body is not one member, but many.

15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

17 If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?

18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

19 And if they were all one member, where were the body?

20 But now are they many members, yet but one body.

22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:

23 And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.

24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked:

25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.

27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

Ephesians 1

23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Ephesians 2

16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

Ephesians 3

6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

Ephesians 4

4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Ephesians 5

23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

Colossians 1

18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:

24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:

Colossians 2

11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

19 And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.

23 Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.

Colossians 3

15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

Hebrews 13

3 Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.

PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS

1 Great Commission authorizes churches to teach and baptize. This cannot be done through a universal body.

2 Ordinances authorized and carried out by local churches. This cannot be done through a universal body.

3 Tithes and offerings given through local churches. This cannot be done through a universal body.

4 Ordination, missions, and ministries are carried out by local churches. This cannot be done through a universal body.

5 Officers such as pastors, deacons, bishops, evangelists, teachers, messengers, treasurers, clerks, etc., serve in local churches. This cannot be done through a universal body.

6 Suffering and rejoicing with fellow saints can only be done in local churches. This cannot be done through a universal body.

7 Preaching and washing of water by the word can only be done in local churches. This cannot be done through a universal body.

8 A Universal Church is historically associated with Roman Catholicism (Katholikos = Universal).

9 The "invisible universal church" is more likely understood to be the "family of God" or the "kingdom of God." We are both adopted and born again into these.

10 Some think the "invisible church" negates the need for a local church. However, Hebrews says to "forsake not the assembling of yourselves together..."

11 The word church (ekklesia) denotes a "called out assembly," - the word denotes an official legal body of authorized representatives to carry out official business.

12 Consider the differences of these words: church, body, house, household, family, brethren, fellow citizens, flock and folds.

13 The only logical possibilities for defining the word "church" are these:

- A local assembly with a specific church in mind. Likely attributed to the group to which the epistle is written.
- The generic use of the word with no specific church in mind. This is thought of to be used in an institutional sense. Similarly, we would say to an adversary, "I will call the police," or, "I will take you before the judge" - usually with no specific officer in mind. Ephesians 5:23 - similar use of the words *husband* and *wife*.
- An invisible "universal" body made up of "all the saved."
- An assembly, not organized by Christ in the New Testament, but referring to a similar group. See Acts 7:38; 19:37.
- Speaking of an assembly in the future, not found today on earth.
- A group of churches - See Acts 9:31; Galatians 1:2.

14. Proper Definition: A church is a body of baptized believers who have coventanted together to carry out the commandments of Christ.

15. The Old Testament speaks many times using the word "congregation" and "tabernacle of the congregation" when referring to the children of Israel and the building of God. It also uses the word in

reference to evil doers (Psalms 26:5), and the dead (Proverbs 21:16). It is used once in the New Testament in Acts 13:43.

CHURCHES REFERRED BY NAME

1. Jerusalem Mt 16:18
2. Judea Acts 9:31; Gal 1:22
3. Galilee " 7 Thes 2:14
4. Samaria "
5. Antioch Acts 11:26; 13:1
6. (?) Phoenice Acts 15:3
7. Syria Acts 15:41
8. Cilicia "
9. Bebe Acts 16:1
10. Lystra Acts 16:2
11. Iconium "
12. Philippi Acts 16:12, 33; Phil 1
13. Thessalonica ^{Thyatira v14} Acts 17:1; 1 Thes 1:1; 2 Thes 1:1
14. Berea Acts 17:11, 12
15. Athens Acts 17:34
16. Corinth Acts 18:8; 1 Cor 1:2
17. Ephesus Acts 19:1 2 Cor 1:1; 1 Tim 3:15; Rev 2:1
18. Rome Rom. 16:5
19. Cenchrea Rom. 16:1
20. Rom 16:23
21. * Galatia 1 1 Cor 16:1; Gal 1:2
22. * Galatia 2 1 Cor 16:1; Gal 1:2
23. * Macedonia 1 2 Cor 8:1
24. * Macedonia 2 2 Cor 8:1

* Achaia Rom 16:5

* - Regions - many cities

Acts 2:41
Acts 2:47

Eph 1:22, 23
5:23
Malachi 2:14
Mt 28:18-20

- 25. Troas Col 4:15; Rev 3:14
- 26. Colosse Col 1:2, 16
- 27. 1 Pet 5:13 Babylon
- 28. Smyrna Rev 2:8
- 29. Ephesus 2:12
- 30. Thyatira 2:18
- 31. Sardis 3:1
- 32. Philadelphia 3:7
- 33. Truoa Acts 20:7
- 34. Larvaus Acts 19:10, 19
- 35. Sydda 9:32
- 36. Joppa 9:36
- 37. Cyprus 11:19
- 38. _____
- 39. _____
- 40. _____
- 41. _____
- 42. _____
- 43. _____
- 44. _____
- 45. _____
- 46. _____
- 47. _____
- 48. _____
- 49. _____
- 50. _____

NOTES

Church 6 1577
 all except
 stroups 1577 / Ekklesia
 Acts 19:37 hier -

Assembly 1577

Acts 19:32, 39, 41 "Church"

James 2:2 4864 "Synagogue"

1 Heb 12:23 3831

"Pangeis"

Fertival gathering

Congregation 4864

Acts 13:43 "Synagogue"

Saying all saved are members
 of a church causes

Confusion - Acts 2:41