

The Church: What Is It?

1. Definition: English word church comes from German Kirche or Scottish Kirk which come from the Greek kyriakon- belonging to the Lord
In scripture the Greek word ekklesia is used - assembly, congregation, gathering of people
Non-technical meaning in the New Testament
Acts 7:38, Acts 19:32, 41

Technical meaning in the New Testament

1 Thessalonians 1:1, Acts 20:28, Matthew 16:18

2. The Church is a product of the Lord Jesus- He built it.
 - a. First mention Matthew 16:18
 1. The Church is the work of Christ
 2. “will” – future tense, at this time the Church was future
 3. “Will be built”-not rebuilt-the Church was a new entity
 4. The Church belongs to Christ- “My Church”
 5. Church-ekklesia-used in technical sense designating the universal Church.
3. a. The Universal Church
1 Corinthians 12:12-14, Acts 20:28, Romans 12:4-5
- b. The Local Church
1 Corinthians 12:12-27, Acts 20:28, Romans 12:4-5

4. Birth of the Church Acts 2:1-4, 1 Cor. 12:13

5. Three Truths About the Church

a. Unity

Ephesians 4:3-6, 15

b. Diversity

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

c. Interdependence

1 Corinthians 12:21, 25-26

Romans 12:5

Galatians 6:2

There must be a commitment to developing genuine fellowship in the Church: Not Christian clubs or cliques but a deep loving, sharing of life in our Lord Jesus.

6. Membership

1 Peter 2:9-10

Ephesians 1:22-23

1 Corinthians 12:27

John 1:12-13

Acts 2:41, 47

1 Corinthians 12:13

7. Meeting of the Church – Acts 2:42, 1 Corinthians 14:26
The Biblical church meeting was established with free and open exercise of spiritual gifts, prayer, worship and fellowship centered on the Lord Jesus Christ.

8. Leadership in the Church
 - a. Christ is the head of the Church- Ephesians 1:22, 4:15

 - b. Elders & Deacons Philippians 1:1

9. Essentials of the New Testament teaching about the Church
 - a. The Church is apostolic Ephesians 2:20, 2 Timothy 2:2

 - b. The Church is the universal community of believers 1 Peter 2:9-10, Ephesians 1:22-23
1 Corinthians 12:27

 - c. The Church is one John 17:20-21, 1 Corinthians 12:13, Ephesians 4:4

 - d. The Church is holy 1 Corinthians 3:17, Ephesians 2:21, Hebrews 2:11, Hebrews 10:10

 - e. The Church is Christocentric Ephesians 5:23, Colossians 1:18, 1 Corinthians 12:12-13,27

 - f. The Church is spiritual Ephesians 2:19-22, 1 Corinthians 3:16

- g. The Church is a priesthood 1 Peter 2:5 & 9, Revelation 1:5-6
 - 1. All Christians are ministers Ephesians 4:12
 - 2. All Christians have access to the presence of God through Christ Hebrews 10:19-22
 - 3. All Christians may offer spiritual sacrifices Romans 12:1-2, Hebrews 13:15-16
 - 4. All Christians are gifted to serve 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
 - 5. All Christians are free to participate in the meeting of the Church
1 Corinthians 14:26

- h. The Church has symbolic acts it practices.
 - 1. Baptism -Matthew 28:19-20, Romans 6:4-6, Acts 2:41, Acts 8:36-38
 - 2. The Lord's Supper – Luke 22:19-20, Acts 20:7, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
 - 3. The Head Covering 1 Corinthians 11:1-22

- i. The Holy Spirits work in the Church
 - 1. Guided the apostles in truth John 14:26, John 16:13-15
 - 2. Singled out men for service Acts 13:2
 - 3. Appointed elders in local Churches Acts 20:28
 - 4. Equipped each Christian with ability for service 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
 - 5. Empowered people to preach the Word Acts 4:8, 1 Thessalonians 1:5

- j. The Church is self supported
 - 1. The early Church believed that only Christians should support the Lord's work.
1 Timothy 6:17-19, 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

2. Giving was voluntary not forced 2 Corinthians 8:3, 2 Corinthian 9:5-7
3. Giving was generous 2 Corinthians 8:2, 2 Corinthians 9:6,13
4. Giving was enthusiastic not grudging 2 Corinthians 8:4,11-12, 2 Corinthian 9:7
5. Giving was deliberate not haphazard 2 Corinthians 9:7, Acts 11:29
6. Giving was regular not spasmodic 1 Corinthians 16:2
7. Giving was proportionate not arbitrary 1 Corinthians 16:2