



WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

This word has been abused and
misused in ways that God did not
intend.

Introduction

- Many good words have been misused and abused.
- The world will use the word in ways that God did not intend.
- Sometimes we fall into that trap.
- **CHURCH** is one of these words.

How “Church” is used today

1. A chapel or meeting place for religious worship (the building)
2. A particular denomination
3. An assembly for worship
4. The group of believers that meet together
5. The world-wide body of saints

How “Church” is used today

1. A chapel or meeting place for religious worship (the building)
- A particular denomination

These two meanings are not used in the New Testament

The word “Church” in the Bible

An assembly for worship

1 Corinthians 11:18 For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it.

The word “Church” in the Bible

The group of believers that meet together

1 Corinthians 1:2 To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

The word “Church” in the Bible

The group of believers that meet together

1 Thessalonians 1:1a Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians

Philemon 1:2b and to the church in your house:

The word “Church” in the Bible

The world-wide body of saints

Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

Matthew 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

The word “Church” in the Bible

Which church do you belong to ?

How would 1st century Christians answer ?

They would answer with location –
Corinth, Ephesus, Philippi, etc.

NEVER – a denomination

NEVER – a building

The Greek word

ekklesia

Ek – out of, from

Klesia – (from kaleo) – to call

Literal – called out or called out ones

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

The Greek word

In NT times used as :

An called, planned meeting, city council -

Acts 19:39 But if you have any other inquiry to make, it shall be determined in the lawful assembly (ekklesia).

The Greek word

In NT times used as :

A special people, a called out group

Galatians 1:6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel,

Ephesians 4:4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;

The Greek word

In NT times used as :

A special people, a called out group

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

1 Thessalonians 2:12 that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

What is the Church?

Church is people

Not a building of sticks and bricks

Ephesians 2:20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone,

1 Peter 2:9a But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people

What is the Church?

Church is people

Jesus did not build many churches

Jesus did not build Peter's church

Jesus is the only foundation

1 Corinthians 3:11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

What Jesus built

What is the Church?

Church is people

What Jesus built

The Bride of Christ

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

2 Corinthians 11:2b For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

What is the Church?

Lord adds us to it

Acts 2:47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Ephesians 5:25-26 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

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What is the Church?

ONE CHURCH

We are baptized into that one church

Church is not like ice cream – just pick from many different flavors

Are you a faithful member of the Lord's church ?