What in the world is the Church?

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## WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THE CHURCH?

The problem and confusion with understanding what “the Church” really is, largely because of how we define church in our culture and conversations. We use the word “church” in a much different way than the Bible uses.

## How We (people) Use & Define Church

1. Sometimes *WE* say they “attend church” when they join a group of people in worshiping God.
2. *WE* may decide to “go to the church and make their way to a building.
3. They may join and identify with a particular community with a prescribed set of beliefs, traditions, and customs. “I go to the Baptist church” or “I’m COGIC” or “I’m Catholic.” So, the word “Church” in our usage can mean a particular denomination.
4. If *WE* ask a person to which church he belongs, he might acknowledge he belongs to the First Presbyterian Church, which means a particular local assembly of people.
5. When a person accepts Jesus Christ, they are told that they are now spiritually related to everyone who accepted

Jesus as Lord and Savior. This means the universal body of Christ.

## HOW THE BIBLE DEFINES CHURCH

CHURCH (ἐκκλησία, ekklēsia). Followers of Christ who derived their identity and mission from Jesus and understood themselves to be the true eschatological community of God.

# ~The Lexham Bible Dictionary Church

*The local church is a gathering of those who believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, who are committed to meet regularly for worship, teaching, fellowship, and prayer, and who help make disciples of all people.*

**REVIEW**

1. The Church is an **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** or **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**. Both the Old and the New Testaments affirm this concept.

**Acts 7:38 (ESV)**

38 This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the angel who spoke to him at Mount Sinai, and with our fathers. He received living oracles to give to us.

**Genesis 15:1–6 (ESV)**

1 After these things **the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision**: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” 2 But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” 3 And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.” 4 And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.” 5 And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” **6 And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.**

# 1 Corinthians 12:13 (ESV)

13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body— Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

# Ephesians 1:22–23 (ESV)

22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

# \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Church

Consists of everyone, everywhere, who has a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:13 ESV

# \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Church

Is a localized gathering of people in a particular place, who profess faith in Jesus Christ and share common interests.

Galatians 1:1–2 ESV

***METAPHORS & PICTURES OF THE CHURCH***

# The Church is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* + 1 Corinthians 12:13 ESV
  + Colossians 1:18 ESV
  + Colossians 2:19 ESV
  + 1 Corinthians 12:27 ESV

# The Church is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* + Ephesians 5:22–23 ESV
  + Ephesians 5:24–25 ESV
  + Ephesians 5:31–32 ESV

# The Church is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* + Galatians 3:26 ESV
  + Galatians 6:10 ESV
  + John 1:12–13 ESV

# The Church is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* + Ephesians 2:21–22 ESV
  + 1 Peter 2:4–6 ESV

# The Church is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* + Acts 20:28 ESV
  + 1 Peter 5:2 ESV
  + John 10:16 ESV

# The Church is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* + Exodus 19:6 ESV
  + 1 Peter 2:9 ESV