

UNDERSTANDING WHAT CHRISTIANS BELIEVE

Part 8: The Doctrine of Church (Ecclesiology)

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I. WHAT IS A CHURCH?

The church is the community of all true believers for all time (Grudem)

The English word for church is derived from the German word *kirche* which is derived from the Greek word *kuriakos*, meaning "belonging to the Lord."

A. The word church means "_____."

- The Greek word for church is *ekklesia* literally meaning "called out."
- It was used in conjunction with an assembly of people.

B. The church began at _____ Acts Chapter 2.

- Pentecost refers to the anniversary of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the disciples fifty days after Jesus's resurrection.

II. THE THREE MAIN PURPOSES OF THE CHURCH

A. Purpose No. 1: Ministry to _____ (Colossians 3:16b; Ephesians 1:12; 5:19b).

B. Purpose No. 2: Ministry to _____ (Ephesians 4:12; Colossians 1:28).

C. Purpose No. 3: Ministry to the _____ (Mathew 28:19; Luke 6:35-36).

III. THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH

The church practices the two ordinances ("God-ordained ceremonies") which began in the New Testament era.

A. The ordinance of _____ (Romans 6:3-4).

- Baptism is the act of being immersed in the water illustrates dying and being buried with Christ.
- The action of coming out of the water pictures Christ's resurrection. See Romans 6:3-4.
- Baptism is an essential step of obedience for a Christian, but it is not necessary for salvation.

B. The ordinance of the _____ (Luke 22:19-20).

- It is a remembrance of Christ (1 Cor. 11:24) by recalling his life (the bread), his death (the cup), his resurrection, and his living presence (the service itself).
- It is a proclamation of his death (1 Cor. 11:26). The service itself states the gospel message and the claims of the gospel on the redeemed person.
- It is an assurance of Jesus Christ's second coming and anticipation of when Jesus will "drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom" (Matt. 26:29 NIV)
- It is a time of fellowship with Christ and his people (1 Cor. 10:21).

IV. TWELVE MARKS OF A TRUE CHURCH

A. The preaching and teaching of _____ (Titus 1:9).

B. Love for _____ (1 Peter 1:8).

C. The proper use of the _____ (1 Corinthians 11:17-34).

D. Genuine _____ (Ephesians 5:19-20; Colossians 3:16-17).

E. Effective _____ (Colossians 4:2; 1 Peter 3:12).

F. Effective _____ (Acts 2:42; 1 John 1:3, 7).

G. Effective _____ (Matthew 28:19-20).

- H. Care for the _____ (Romans 15:26; Galatians 2:10).
- I. Biblical church _____ (Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:18).
- J. Spiritual power in _____ (Acts 1:8; Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 4:20).
- K. Personal _____ among members (Hebrews 12:14).
- L. Right use of church _____ (1 Corinthians 5:6-7, 12-13).

V. WHAT IS THE CHURCH TO BE LIKE?

- A. The church is to be like a _____ (Romans 12:4-5; Ephesians 4:4-6).
- B. The church is to be like a _____ (Revelation 21:9).
- C. The church is to be like a _____ (Ephesians 2:19-22).
- D. The church is to be like a _____ (1 Peter 2:5).
- E. The church is to be like _____ (John 15:5).

VI. HOW GOD USES THE CHURCH TO BLESS US

- A. He blesses us when we are _____ (Hebrews 3:13; 10:25).
- B. He blesses us when we _____ (Ephesians 5:19-20).
- C. He blesses us when we are _____ (Ephesians 4:12).

VII. SPIRITUAL GIFTS WITHIN THE CHURCH

- A. Spiritual gifts are _____ God gives to each believer for the purpose of _____ the church body (Ephesians 4:8-13).
- B. Spiritual gifts are not:
- Chosen by the believer (1 Corinthians 12:4)
 - The fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23)
 - Intended to attract attention or bring glory to the believer
 - Necessarily natural talents

- Supernatural manifestations (i.e., occult practices, fortune telling, divination, casting spells, etc.)

	Spiritual Gift	1 Cor. 12:8-10	1 Cor. 12:28-30	Rom. 12:6-8	Eph. 4:11	1 Cor. 7:7
1	Administration		X			
2	Apostles		X		X	
3	Celibacy					X
4	Distinguishing between spirits	X				
5	Encouraging			X		
6	Evangelists				X	
7	Faith	X				
8	Giving			X		
9	Healing	X	X			
10	Helps		X			
11	Interpretation of Tongues	X	X			
12	Knowledge	X				
13	Leadership			X		
14	Marriage					X
15	Mercy			X		
16	Miracles	X	X			
17	Pastors				X	
18	Prophecy	X		X		
19	Prophets		X		X	
20	Service			X		
21	Teaching		X	X	X	
22	Tongues	X	X			
23	Wisdom	X				

Table 1: Types of spiritual gifts

C. Personal benefits of using your spiritual gift(s).

- You experience the joy of knowing that God is working through you in a special way
- You become a contributor to the building-up process of the church
- You discover that you have a unique way of edifying others
- You glorify God through them

D. Seven principles of spiritual gifts.

- Principle No. 1: There is diversity and purpose in spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12:4; Ephesians 4:11-12).

- Principle No. 2: We are accountable to Christ for the use of our spiritual gifts (2 Cor. 5:10; Luke 12:48b)
- Principle No. 3: You need others and others need you (1 Cor. 12:12-21)
- Principle No. 4: Every believer has at least one gift (1 Cor. 12:7)
- Principle No. 5: They are to be discovered (1 Corinthians 12:1).
- Principle No. 6: Unity of the Body results from their usage (I Corinthians 12:12).
- Principle No. 7: Gifts are manifested in varying degrees of strength (I Peter 4:10-11).

E. Pitfalls to avoid.

- Not being aware of the nature and need for spiritual gifts
- Selecting a gift without seeking God's choice
- Comparing your giftedness to others
- Being too reluctant to use your God-chosen gift
- Placing more of an emphasis on gifts than on a daily personal relationship with Christ
- Not using your gift because you don't like what you see in others
- Putting personal needs above the needs of others
- Failing to be persistent when opposed by the enemy
- Neglecting to remain dependent on the Holy Spirit for power

F. How to discover your spiritual gift(s).

- E_____ your desires
- E_____ with practical applications
- E_____ to determine if it is effective

G. Remember...

- You may have a gift mix
- Ask: will it build up the "body"?
- Check your gift motives against I Corinthians 13:1
- Don't be surprised if it results in a new ministry
- Use the gifts with the strength God provides you (Romans 12:3; I Peter 4:11)
- You become a contributor to the building-up process of the church
- You experience the joy of knowing that God is working through you in a special way
- You glorify God through them

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