

Bible Study – The Church

Pastor Charles A. Hall – December 5, 2024

The Church means: The word church is from the Greek language “Ekklesia” which means assembly, also the English word church come from the Greek word “Kyriake” which means “what belongs to the Lord.” In the bible church is also referred to as “the day of the assembly” “the Lord congregation” and “meeting before the Lord.”

Local church means: The geographical setting place of the assembly of Believer in the New Testament.

Most of us have been attending church for many years, so as a result many of us believe that we have a good understanding of what God’s purpose was for creating the church in the first place. If we understand the church through the eyes of God, which include the roles and purpose of the church then maybe we can be better servants of the church. It is difficult to be a servant to somebody or something if you do not have a healthy understanding of the reason for their existence. A particularly important point found in the New Testament where Jesus never called the synagogue, the temple, the chapel, the tabernacle, nor the building or any other place the “church.” The church was always identified by the city or region which the assembly of believers gather together to worship God in spirit and in truth. In the New Testament the term church always referred to the assembly of Christians believers both local and Christians in general. The Christian in general is a reference to the body of Christ or the body of Christian believers. In the New Testament the church consisted of believers both Jews and Gentiles. As individual believers and members of the local assembly we are referred to as being the body of Christ in the bible. Since Jesus Christ is the builder of the church, He has and continues to maintain authority over every church, which simply mean He is the head of every church. No one can own a church but God, someone or some organization may own the physical building that the church meets in, but not the church.

- **Matthew 16:18** And I say 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.
- **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.
- **Ephesians 1:19-23** (19) And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, (20) Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, (21) Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: (22) And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, (23) Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.
- **1 Corinthians 12:27** Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

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The Christian church operates as a channel to present God's moral standards to the world by teaching and upholding the principles outlined in the holy bible. The foundation or the basis for this moral righteous standard is the love of God, and the love for others. The church is not just called to teach God's moral standards, but the church must also display God's moral standards as well. In other words the church must be reflective of God's word.

- **Galatians 5:13-16** (13) For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. (14) For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. (15) But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. (16) This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Since teaching is a primary role within the church, the under-Shepherd or Pastor must possess the divine gift of teaching, which is the God given ability to explain God's Word. Teaching God's Word requires the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit to instruct, and communicate what is written in the bible, especially the doctrine of faith and the truths of God's Word. The under-shepherd must possess this gift of ministering and teaching so that he will recognize others within the church in which the Holy Spirit has also given the gift of teaching, and ministering.

- **Romans 12:6-7** (6) Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; (7) Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;
- **1 Timothy 3:2** A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;
- **2 Timothy 1:11** Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

The role of the local church of believers is to come together in love with a common belief and faith in Jesus Christ to learn and serve together. When we come together it should be an atmosphere of fellowship where each believer will be respectful and considerate of each other, while stirring up and encouraging good work based on love.

- **Hebrews 10:24** And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.

Examples of good works:

- Teaching and preaching God's word
- Service to God
- Ministry support
- Individual and corporate accountability
- Supporting and encouraging each other