

Colossians 1:18-19 (NIV)

And he is the head of the body, the CHURCH; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy.

[19] For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him...

Colossians 1:20 (NIV)

...and through Him to reconcile to Himself
all things, whether things on earth or
things in heaven, by making peace
through His blood, shed on the cross.

Acts 20:28-29 (NLT)

So guard yourselves and God's people.

Feed and shepherd God's flock - his CHURCH, purchased with his own blood - over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as elders. [29] I know that false teachers, like vicious wolves, will come in among you after I leave, not sparing the flock.

Hebrews 10:23-25 (NIV)

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. [24]

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

[25] Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

We BELIEVE the...

**Church is NOT a
BUILDING**

Acts 2:42-47

We believe that the true church includes
**ALL who have been Justified by God's
Grace through Faith alone in Christ alone.**

They are **united by the Holy Spirit in the
body of Christ,** of which **He is the Head.**

The true church is seen clearly in local
churches, whose membership is composed
only of believers. EFCA

Matthew 16:18 (ESV)

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock

I WILL build MY church,

and the gates of hell shall not prevail

against it.

Ephesians 1:22-23 (NLT)

God has put all things **under** the **authority** of **Christ** and has **made Him head over ALL things** for the **BENEFIT** of the **CHURCH**.

[23] **And the church IS HIS body;**
it is made full and complete by Christ, who
fills all things everywhere with himself.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 (NLT)

The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body.

So it is with **THE BODY of Christ.**

[13] Some of us are **Jews**, some are **Gentiles**, some are **slaves**, and some are **free**.

But **we have ALL been BAPTIZED**

into ONE BODY by one Spirit,
and we all share the same Spirit.

→ The Church

BELONGS to Jesus Christ

→ **The Church is made up of
FORGIVEN sinners**

1 Peter 2:9-10 (NIV)

But **you are a chosen people**, a royal priesthood,
a holy nation, **a people BELONGING to God**,
THAT you may declare the praises of
Him who called you out of darkness into
His wonderful light. [10] Once you were not a
people, **but now you are the people of God**;
once you had **not received mercy**,
but now you have received mercy.

> Assumed **POSITIVE Intent**

> Remember we **ALL** have
WOUNDS

[42] They **DEVOTED** themselves to the **apostles' teaching** and to the **fellowship**, to the **breaking of bread** and to **prayer**.

[43] **Everyone was FILLED with AWE**, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.

[44] All the believers were together and **had everything in common**. [45] **Selling their possessions** and goods, they **gave to anyone** as he had **need**.

Descriptive - of what they did for
a short time

Prescriptive - not commanded or
Required

[46] Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. **They broke bread in their homes** and **ate together with glad and sincere hearts,**

[47] **praising God** and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the **Lord added to their number daily** those who were being saved.

The VERY First Church met for...

- Teaching
- Fellowship
- Breaking of Bread
- Prayer
- Praise and Worship God

They had a definite **doctrinal standard**,
the **apostle's teaching**; they had
fellowship with one another as believers;
they observed the ordinances of **baptism**
and the **Lord's Supper**; they met for
public worship; and they **contributed** to
the support of the needy. Thiessen

→ They **DEVOTED** themselves
to **Christ and His Church**

→ The were bighearted and
GENEROUS towards others

> To be **Generous** is to be
OPENHANDED

not

TIGHTFISTED

1 Corinthians 3:10-11 (NIV)

For we are God's fellow workers; you are
God's field, God's building.

[10] By the **grace God** has given me,
I laid a **FOUNDATION** as an expert builder,
and someone else is building on it. **But each
one should be careful how he builds.**

[11] For no **one can lay any foundation**
other than the one already laid,
which is Jesus Christ.

In **PLANTING** local churches
Jesus Christ must be the **FOUNDATION**,
the **Word of God** must be the rule of
FAITH and **PRACTICE**,
and the **Spirit of God** must be
the administrator. Thiessen

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 (NIV)

Don't you know that **you yourselves ARE God's TEMPLE** and that **God's Spirit lives in you?** [17] If anyone **destroys God's TEMPLE**, God will destroy him; for **God's temple is sacred, and you ARE that temple.**

I am the church, you are the church

We are the Church together

All who follow **Jesus**,
all around the **world**,

Yes we're the Church together

The church is not a building,
The church is not a steeple.
The church is not a resting place,
The church is the **people**.

We're many kinds of people,
With many kinds of faces,
All colors and all ages,
From all kinds of places.

I am the church, you are the church

We are the Church together

All who follow **Jesus**,
all around the **world**,

Yes we're the Church together

CHRIST IS the...

Ryrie

- SHEPHERD and we are His SHEEP
- VINE and we are the BRANCHES
- CORNERSTONE we the BUILDING BLOCKS
- HIGH PRIEST and we are a KINGDOM of PRIESTS
- HEAD and we are the BODY
- LAST ADAM and we are a NEW CREATION
- BRIDEGROOM and we are HIS BRIDE
- HEIR and we are CO-HEIRS
- FIRST-FRUITS and we are the HARVEST
- MASTER and we are His SERVANTS

1 Peter 1:18-19 (NLT)

For you know that **God paid a RANSOM** to **SAVE YOU** from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And **the ransom He paid** was **not mere gold or silver**.

[19] It was **the precious blood of Christ**, the **sinless, spotless Lamb of God**.

Elders - 1 Tim. 3 and Titus 1

Deacons - Acts 6.1-6, 1 Tim. 3.8, and Titus 1

Pastor - is a gift and ministry

Membership - is **NOT** mentioned
specifically in the Bible

Hebrews 10:19-21 (NLT)

And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can **boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place** because of **the BLOOD of Jesus**. [20] **By His death, Jesus opened** a new and life-giving way through the curtain into **the Most Holy Place**. [21] And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's house,

[22] **let us go right into the presence of God** with **sincere hearts fully trusting Him**. For our guilty consciences have been **sprinkled with Christ's blood** to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.

[23] Let us **HOLD TIGHTLY**
without wavering to the hope we affirm,
for God can be TRUSTED
to keep His promise.

[24] Let us think of ways to **motivate** one another to **acts of love** and **good works**.

[25] And let us **NOT NEGLECT** our **meeting together**, as some people do, but **encourage one another**, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.