

## The Church is NOT a BUILDING ~ Acts 2:42-47

→Scripture Reading Col. 1.18-20, Acts 20.28-29, Heb. 10.23-25

### INTRODUCTION

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

### WHEN did the Church START? ~ Matthew 16:18

**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.

### IMPLICATIONS

→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**

### The First MEGA Church ~ Acts 2.42-47

[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

### IMPLICATIONS

→They DEVOTED themselves to Christ and His Church

→The were bighearted and GENEROUS towards others

>To be Generous is to be OPENHANDED not TIGHTFISTED

## Local and Universal Church

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

## The RELATIONSHIP between Christ and His Church

**CHRIST IS the...** Ryrie

- SHEPHERD and we are His SHEEP- Jn 10.11,14-15
- VINE and we are the BRANCHES- Jn 15.1-5
- CORNERSTONE we the BUILDING BLOCKS- Eph 2:19-21
- HIGH PRIEST and we are a KINGDOM of PRIESTS- Heb. 13.15-16
- HEAD and we are the BODY- 1 Co 12.12-13, 18-20, 27
- LAST ADAM and we are a NEW CREATION- Rm. 5.12-19
- BRIDEGROOM and we are HIS BRIDE- Eph 5:25-33
- HEIR and we are CO-HEIRS- Ro 8:15-17
- FIRST-FRUITS and we are the HARVEST- 1 Co 15:23
- MASTER and we are His SERVANTS- Jn 15.20

## IMPLICATIONS

**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.

## CHURCH ORGANIZATION and STRUCTURE

**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

## TAKE AWAY??

**Hebrews 10:19-25** (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.