

Intro: Contrary to the English definition, the biblical definition of church is the “the called out” and “an assembly of the called out ones.” And, the Zondervan Encyclopedia of the Bible says, “The word “church” is applicable essentially to people, and in its broadest sense is used to describe “the company of the faithful throughout all the world.”

I. To help us understand the heavenly perspective of the church, let’s consider the distinguishing characteristics (or marks) of the church.

A. Unity.

1. What will this characteristic teach the disciple?

B. Holiness/Sanctification.

1. What will this characteristic teach the disciple?

C. Universality.

1. What will this characteristic teach the disciple?

D. Apostolicity.

1. What will this characteristic teach the disciple?

E. Communion.

1. What will this characteristic teach the disciple?

F. Water Baptism.

1. What will this characteristic teach the disciple?

G. Devotion to the ministry of the Word.

1. What will this characteristic teach the disciple?

H. Devotion to Christ.

1. What will this characteristic teach the disciple?

II. The purpose (ministry) of the church.

A. Ministry to God.

1. What will this purpose of the church teach the disciple?

B. Ministry to the Church (Believers).

1. What will this purpose of the church teach the disciple?

C. Ministry to the non-believing.

1. What will this purpose of the church teach the disciple?

**“Wherever we see the Word of God purely preached and heard,
and the sacraments administered according to Christ’s institution,
there, it is not to be doubted, a church of God exists.”**

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