

What is the Church? - Part 1

I will Build My Church - Matthew 16:13-20

Rediscover Church Definition of the Church

The church is a group of Christians
Who assemble as an earthly Embassy of Christ heavenly kingdom
To proclaim the good news and commands of Christ the King
To affirm one another as his citizens through the ordinances
And to display God's own holiness and love
Through a unified diverse people
In all the world
Following the teaching an example of Pastor-elders

In today's message, let us consider **3 parts** of the definition concerning the **Church**.

- **The church is a group of Christians who assemble**
- **As an earthly embassy of Christ's heavenly kingdom**
- **To proclaim the good news and commands of Christ the King**

Matthew 16:13-20 - 13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He began asking His disciples, saying, "**Who do people say that the Son of Man is?**" 14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 And Simon Peter answered and said, "**Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.**" 17 And Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, **because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.** 18 "And I also say to you that **you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church;** and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it. 19 "**I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.**" 20 Then He warned the disciples that they should tell no one that He was the Christ. NASB

Matthew 18:19-20 - 19 "Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. **20 "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst."** NASB

Matthew 28:18-20 - 18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you;** and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. " NASB

From Heritage Christian Fellowship Statement of Faith concerning the Church.

HCF SOF - The Church is the universal body of Christ, those who by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit, and who upon repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus have been baptized into Christ.

John 3:3-7 - 3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**" 4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" 5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.** 6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 "Do not marvel that I said to you, **'You must be born again.'** NASB

John 3:16-18 - 16 "For God so loved the world, **that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.** 17 "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that **the world should be saved through Him.** 18 "**He who believes in Him is not judged;** he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. NASB

Hebrews 12:22-24 - 2 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, **23 to the general assembly and church [ekklesia] of the first-born who are enrolled in heaven,** and to God, the Judge of all, and **to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, 24 and to Jesus,** the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel. NASB

Hebrews 10:23-25 - 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; **24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more,** as you see the day drawing near. NASB

1 Thessalonians 2:13 - 13 And for this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received from us **the word of God's message, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.** NASB

Psalm 19:7-11 - 7 The law of the Lord is perfect, **restoring the soul**; The testimony of the Lord is sure, **making wise the simple**. 8 The precepts of the Lord are right, **rejoicing the heart**; The commandment of the Lord is pure, **enlightening the eyes**. 9 The fear of the Lord is clean, **enduring forever**; The judgments of the Lord **are true**; they are **righteous altogether**. 10 They are **more desirable than gold**, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. 11 Moreover, by them **Thy servant is warned; In keeping them there is great reward**. NASB

John 1:14-18 - 14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 John bore witness of Him, and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'" 16 For of His fulness we have all received, and grace upon grace. 17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. 18 No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him. NASB

Philippians 4:6-7 - 6 Be anxious for nothing, but **in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God**. 7 **And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus**. NASB

Colossians 3:16-17 - 16 **Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God**. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father. NASB

1 Corinthians 3:16 - 16 Do you not know that **you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?** NASB

Ephesians 2:19-22 - 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are **fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household**, 20 having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, **21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; 22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit**. NASB

Acts 2:43-47 - 43 And everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. **44 And all those who had believed were together**, and had all things in common; 45 and they began selling their property and possessions, and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. **46 And day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, 47 praising God, and having favor with all the people**. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved. NASB

Acts 1:8 - 8 but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth. " NASB

Matthew 28:18-20 - 18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. " NASB

Philippians 1:27 - 27 Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ; so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; NASB

Ephesians 4:11-16 - 11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service[ministry], to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ. 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love. NASB

1 Timothy 3:14-15 - 14 I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; 15 but in case I am delayed, I write so that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth. NASB