

# THE CHURCH

What did Jesus have in mind when He said

“I will build my Church...”?

WHAT IS IT?

WHO IS IT?

WHAT IS IF FOR?

WHERE DO I FIT?

I believe this study will clarify these questions for you and help you to function powerfully within the Church.

# 1. THE CHURCH – Body of Christ

**Do we : Have church , go to church , belong to a church ??  
What does the Bible teach ??.**

Matthew 16:18 “*I will build my church..*” ( New testament word )

Greek - Ekklesia = “called out ones”= that which is called out ( of the world )

John 1:12 “*...As many as received Him to them He gives power...*”

Matthew 11:28 “*..come unto me all you that labour*”

Isaiah 1:18 “*...though your sins be as scarlet they shall be white as snow*”

Matthew 19:21 “*...come and follow me*”

Mark 10:21 “*...come..take up your cross and follow me*”

Math 22:9 “*... go into highways ....*”

## Church Birthed:

John 19:34 “*blood and water*” – The church was birthed that day

Acts 2:4 Day of Pentecost – God breathed on His church and it came to life

Heb 12:2 “*.. for the joy ...*” Note: 1Jn 5:6 “*..Blood Water Spirit*”

To be a WITNESS to the Nations --- Acts 1 : 8

## But what is the Church ???

### 1 Jesus is Head – Church is His Body

Ephesians 1:22-23

Ephesians 5:23,26-27

Ephesians 4:13,15

The church is his body

Body under headship of Jesus

Body cannot function without the head

Body identified by the head

( Col 1:18 Col 2:18-19 Col 3:1-4 , Col 3: 11 –17 All excellent reading )

### 2 Church = People

1 Peter 2:5

“*ye also as lively stones*”

Ephesians 2:19-22

“*fitly framed together*”

Ephesians 4:16

“*every joint supplies*”

1 Corinthians 12:12

“*many members, one body*”

John 17:20-23

“*they may be one*”

John 13: 34-35

“*love one another.... that the world might know that*

*Jesus is Son of God*”

Explain Ps 133 -- **UNITY IS WITH JESUS FIRST ( not man ) THEN ALL WILL BE IN UNITY**

When we talk of the church;

Matthew 18:20 *“where two or three are gathered together....”*

Not

- a building – “a church”
- an exclusive gathering here or there
- a particular family or friends

But

- People everywhere, from every Nation and Tongue
- People have made Jesus Lord and are committed to holiness & righteousness
- Individuals who believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God
- People committed to change to allow the Holy Spirit to reflect Jesus through their lives.

**Why two or three gathered to constitute the Church ??**

**1. Because there must be a “Love for one another” to make a witness**  
Jn 13:34

**2. Because there must be a witness of Truth** Math 18:16

Acts 2:47 *“And the Lord added to the **Church** daily such as should be saved”*

Acts 20:28 *“made you overseers to feed the **Church of God** which he hath purchased with his own blood”*

Romans 16:5 **Church** in your own home ( Church Families)

1 Corinthians 16:19 (Identifies group of believers) **Churches** of Asia

Philemon 1:2 **Church** in your home

Hebrews 10:25 *“..not forsaking the gathering together...”*

Families of believers gathering to strengthen and encourage one another

- Church is the result of Christian Mission
- We don't “join the church” – we recognise Jesus the Son of the living God – automatic qualification for membership
- Church is not our aspiration – Jesus is
- All functions are automatic when Jesus is the Head

**Comment** : Math 24:28 “ were the carcass is ....” ( Luke 17:37 Mark 13: 27 )

### **3 Temple of the Holy Spirit ( Your personal development )**

1 Corinthians 6:19,20 *“What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God and ye are not your own?”*

1 Corinthians 3:16,17 *“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God”*

Ephesians 2:19-22 Church temple  
Ephesians 5: 27 Glorious church – true reflection of Head  
Ephesians 4: 13-16 “...Full stature.....”  
Glorious Church means you and I ( Isaiah 60 *“ arise ,shine ..... )*  
New Wine skin daily Math 9:17

God is committed to creating a vessel for his glory.

- That is not this “church” or any “church”
- That is not the pastor, elder, deacon, home group leaders
- Not respecting one person over another

But He is committed to you and me as vessels of His Glory.

Individual attention by the Master – Perfecting His creation.

2 Cor 3:18 ‘ *...from Glory to Glory..”*

2 Timothy 2:19-21 *“the Lord knows those that are His”*

1 Jn 3:1-3

1 Jn 4:17

## 2. THE CHURCH – Expression of Christ

### Ephesians 4

*“Therefore, I the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the call with which you were called”*

Rom 8:18 *“the sufferings of this present age ...”*

#### 1 Worthy Vocation

Ephesians 3:14-19      Glorious  
Philippians 3:10-14      High Calling

#### 2 Wherewith we are Called

Church – called out ones – we have to know we are called  
C/f Ephesians 1:1, Galatians 1:1, 1 Corinthians 1:1  
Father heart of God – calling (through His prophets)

Matthew 11:28      *“come unto me all ye that labour”*  
2 Corinthians 6:17      *“Wherefore come out from among them..”*  
Luke 14:23      *“Go out into the highways and hedges and compel them”*  
Isaiah 55:1      *“come to the waters”*  
Isaiah 1:18-20      *“come let us reason together”*

#### 3 Lowliness and Meekness

Understanding frailty and humanity

John 15:5      *“for without me ye can do nothing”*  
Luke 18:17      *“receive the Kingdom of God as a little child”*  
Psalm 51      *“a broken and contrite heart”*

Only power, confidence or authority we have is in Christ.

Ephesians 2:8      *“by grace saved through faith”*  
Isaiah 55      *“so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts”*

**Humility is not “doing nothing”, It is “acknowledging God for everything”**

#### 4 Patience, Unity of Spirit, Bond of Peace

Maintaining spirit of unity as opposed to spirit of contention.

Paul talking of: natural unity, natural differences overlooked

My way is not the only way My thoughts are not always right God is bigger than me

We need a bigger World view to appreciate the heart of the Father

Different is not wrong and God will use different ways to reach different people

However there can only be one Spirit but we can support one another in our differences and failings ( NB 1 Peter 4 :8 )

Ephesians 4:4-6 "One Lord, One Faith etc....."

### **NOW we read on ....**

Ephesians 4:7 *"but unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of **Christ**"*

Ephesians 4:11 *"And he gave some, apostles, and some, prophets, and some, evangelists, and some, pastors and teachers.."*

God Clothed us with His own spirit, Anointed us with a Measure of Christ , just as Elijah to Elisha so Christ to His Church

Gave some, apostles, for the equipping of the saints ( apostolic burden )

Gave some, prophets, for the equipping of the saints ( prophetic burden ) etc

Christ divided into four giftings: ( some teach 5 but I put pastor and teacher together as an expression of the Father heart 1 Cor 4:15)

Apostle , Prophet , Evangelist , Pastor and Teacher.

Worldwide Expression ( Burden ) of Christ ministered through our individual giftings, motivations, talents, abilities, personality and callings for the Glory of God

Jesus first:

Apostle – sent from God

Hebrews 3:1

Prophet – voice of God

Luke 7:16

Evangelist – saving heart of God

Luke 5:32

Pastor and Teacher – Father heart of God

1 Cor 4:15

Now His mantle ( Christ ) is divided up among His saints

Some Apostle measure of Christ

Some Prophet measure of Christ

Some Evangelist measure of Christ

Some Pastor and Teacher measure of Christ

Each one of has a leaning towards one of these giftings. Some love to share gospel , some to nurture, some establish truth, some pioneer and the Ministries of Apostle, Prophet etc, have been given to the Body to develop these gifts within the body.

Ephesians 4:11-12 *“For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ”*

Verse 13 To mature the Body

Verse 14 To strengthen the Body

Verse 15,16 Body edifies itself

Respect for gifting and callings

**Note Eph 4 : 8 – 9 Jesus destroys the power of evil and releases us to fulfil our God given function “Takes captivity captive “**

### 3. TWO FOLD CALLING

#### Called to Be

1 Peter 2:9 *"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood"*  
Eph 5:27 *"..a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle."*  
Romans 8:29 *"For whom he did fore-knew, he also did pre-destinate"*  
John 4:23,24 *"The hour cometh and now is when true worshippers.."*

#### Called to Do

James 2:17 *"faith, if it hath no works is dead, being alone"*  
Matthew 5:14,16 *"let your light so shine before men"*  
John 9:4 *"I must work the works of him that sent me"*

Success – fullness – abundance of life is in the outworking of this calling.  
Our part in body of Christ  
Jesus Head – we are the members of the Body

**To Be:** Worshipper – John 4:23,24 ( Luke 10 : 38-42 )  
**To Do:** Worker – John 9:4

Now it is important to get the process correct.  
We need to be – before we do  
We need to know God intimately (worshippers) to know sense of calling  
(workers) and destiny upon our lives.

#### 1 TO BE

2 Peter 3:18 *"grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour"*  
2 Peter 1:5 *"add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge.."*

Growing up to be maturing spiritually. Overcoming weaknesses, being balanced, disciplined, no longer babies but sons and daughters of God and then fathers in the faith.

Ephesians 4:13  
*"till we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the son of God unto a perfect man"*

Galatians 5 Fruit of the spirit Need to mature  
1 John 2 Children Young Men Fathers  
2 Timothy 1:7 Power Love Sound Mind



## 2 TO DO

2 Timothy 2:20,21

*“..a vessel of honour, sanctified and meet for the Masters use”*

### Jesus

John 17:4 *“I have glorified thee on the earth, I have finished the work”*

C/f John 9:4 *“I must work the works of him that sent me”*

### Had a Mission

John 19:28-30 *“It is finished”*

### Paul

Acts 20:24 *“so that I might finish my course”*

C/f Philipians 3:14 *“I press towards the mark”*

(Mission yet incomplete)

2 Timothy 4:6-8 *“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course”*

There must be a point of hitting the mark. (Always learning – always being taught (fine tuning) but there must come a time when we sense –

*“Yes, I’m on course, I am in the race.”*

Not wandering around aimlessly but knowing the destiny of God and pressing into it.

Motivational Gifts	Romans 12
Talents	Matthew 25
Spiritual Gifts	1 Corinthians 12
Functioning Body	

### Quote from a magazine July/August 1989

“Martin Luther observed that the theology of his day divided the Church into two halves; those with a calling from God – the monks and nuns – and the rest of Christendom toiling meaninglessly at their daily occupations. Luther said that every Christian had two callings; one to salvation (John 6:28,29) and one to a vocation (as he interpreted the word calling in 1 Corinthians 7:17,20-24). The first “work”, faith, resulted in peace with God; the second, our vocation, resulted in service to people. But those who sought righteousness by sequestering themselves in monasteries, contended Luther, were no good to God or to man”

“When Luther spoke of vocation in relationship to work”, writes Pastor Dwight T Gregory,” his main purpose was to show that one did not have to leave his ‘secular’ job to serve Christ fully.” Luther saw that work fits in as a part of our

entire life with God. A printer's work is as valuable as a pastor's, a mason's as that of a missionary.

John Calvin took Luther's point a step further. "Every individual's line of life" he said, is, as it were, a post assigned him by the Lord" Calvin saw each of us called by God to specific occupations.

### **Individual Callings**

Philippians 3:12 *"I must apprehend that for which I was apprehended of Christ"*

Ephesians 3:7 *"I was made a minister"*

1 Timothy 1:2 *"putting me into the ministry"*

1 Corinthians 1:1 *"Paul called to be an apostle of Jesus"*

### **Not everyone is called to 'the Ministry' but everyone is called to 'minister'**

The difference is 'the Ministry' is a unique call to equip the saints and the saints have a unique call to reflect and glorify Jesus in the world and to minister His love to the people

Ephesians 1:17,18

*"That we might know what is the hope of our calling"*

2 Timothy 1:9

*"and called us with an holy calling"*

2 Peter 1:10

*"give diligence to make your calling and election sure"*