

THE BIBLE WORD SERIES

A Brief Study of those Important Words found in the Bible that we need to understand, not just skip over.

THE CHURCH

The *Greek* word for "church" = "EKKLESIA" = EK + KLESIA = OUT + CALLED
In other words, "set apart and called out ones".

When the Apostle Paul was writing to the Corinthian church, he was concerned about their worldly life-style. They were not living any differently than the evil society around them in the city of Corinth.

2 Corinthians 6:17 "Come out from among them (evil nations) and be separate" says the Lord. "Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you."

1. Which of the following Old Testament verses was Paul quoting from?
___ Psalm 1:1 ___ Isaiah 52:11 ___ Colossians 1:18 ___ Ezekiel 20:34

Paul is not saying that there was "the church" in the Old Testament. However, he is saying that being separated from the evil world was an issue back then too.

2. Match the statements with the verses.
- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| a. Leviticus 20:24-26 | ___ God separated light from darkness in creation. |
| b. 1 Chronicles 23:13 | ___ The tabernacle veil separated with the Holy Place. |
| c. Genesis 1:18 | ___ The priests were set apart for service. |
| d. 1 Kings 8:53 | ___ The Jews were to separate from all peoples. |
| e. Exodus 26:33 | ___ Israel is to set apart for God in the world. |

It has always been important to God to distinguish between holiness & sinfulness.

3. God wants man to become believers & serve Him in the world. ___Yes ___No
4. If a man chooses sin & ungodliness, he cannot serve God. ___Yes ___No
5. Write out Isaiah 59:2. _____

6. If a believer lives in sinful behavior, he is temporarily separated from fellowship (intimate relationship) with God & he cannot serve either. ___Yes ___No

SO, BEING SET APART FOR GOD'S PURPOSES IS NOTHING NEW. THE OLD TESTAMENT REQUIRED IT THROUGH "THE NATION OF ISRAEL".

NOW, IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, GOD WILL REQUIRE BEING SET APART FOR GOD'S PURPOSES THROUGH "THE CHURCH".

7. What is your definition of "the church"? _____

My definition is: **The Church = The Body of Christ = The body of believers who Christ died for = The People who belong in the Kingdom of God.**

1 Corinthians 12:27

And you (Corinthian believers) are the body of Christ, and members individually.

Ephesians 4:4

There is ONE body and ONE Holy Spirit, just as you were called in ONE hope of your calling; ONE Lord, ONE faith, ONE baptism; ONE God and Father of all, Who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

8. Would you make any changes to your definition of "the church"? _____

The "ONE HOPE", "ONE FAITH", "ONE BAPTISM" all refer to the moment you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior.

We were "baptized" into the "body of Christ"; that means 'adopted into or placed into'. All of our "hope" and "faith" is in Jesus Christ. (This "baptism" has nothing to do with water.)

9. Ephesians 1:22 Who is the Head of the body of believers? _____

10. Ephesians 5:23 Who is the Head of the Church? _____

The "body of believers" and "the church" are the same thing.

11. Ephesians 3:6 According to this verse, if the apostles & the prophets are "Jews", and the "Gentiles" are "non-Jews, what people in the world can accept Christ as Savior and enter the Body of Christ (The Church)? _____

12. What do believers in "The Church" face or experience today?

a. Acts 2:47 _____

b. Acts 5:11 _____

c. Acts 8:3 _____

13. What does Christ do for the believers in "The Church"?

a. Ephesians 5:23 _____

14. How can believers minister to each other in "The Church"?

a. 1 Cor. 14:12 _____

15. Do you belong to the "Body of Christ"? _____ Yes _____ No

16. Have you accepted Christ as your Lord & Savior? _____ Yes _____ No

BOTTOM LINE: ONLY A PERSON WHO HAS ACCEPTED CHRIST AS SAVIOR FROM THE PENALTY OF SIN (BORN AGAIN) IS PART OF THE "BODY OF CHRIST".

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "THE CHURCH" (THE BODY OF CHRIST) AND THE NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH ON THE CORNER.

"The Church" = The entire body of believers everywhere
The neighborhood church = Each group of people who attend a church, also called a congregation.

17. Is every attender of a local church part of the "Body of Christ"? ___ Yes ___ No

18. Is every born again believer in a local church part of the "Body"? ___ Yes ___ No

Summary: Obviously, not every person who attends a church has made a decision to accept Christ as Savior. ANY BORN AGAIN BELIEVER IS IN THE "BODY".

THE LOCAL CHURCH

19. What positive things happen in the local church? (Match verse & statement)

- | | | |
|------------------|-----|---|
| a. 1 Cor. 1:2 | ___ | The church has elder meetings. |
| b. 1 Thess. 2:14 | ___ | Churches prosper & become mature. |
| c. 2 Cor. 8:1-2 | ___ | Some churches are very generous in their giving. |
| d. Acts 11:26 | ___ | The saints (believers) gather there. |
| e. Acts 13:1 | ___ | Many churches send out missionaries. |
| f. Acts 14:23 | ___ | Some churches are busily appointing missionaries. |
| g. 1 Cor. 14:33 | ___ | Churches are striving to have peace within. |
| h. Acts 20:17 | ___ | Churches show strength & growth. |
| i. Acts 9:31 | ___ | Additional churches are planted in a region. |
| j. Gal. 1:2 | ___ | House churches are established. |
| k. Rom. 16:1 | ___ | Churches can learn from other churches. |
| l. Rom. 16:5 | ___ | Some successfully handle church discipline. |
| m. 1 Cor. 4:17 | ___ | There should lots of teaching. |
| n. James 5:14 | ___ | Future leaders should be extensively trained. |
| o. Matt. 18:17 | ___ | Church elders are praying for the sick. |

20. What negative things happen in the local church? (Match)

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----|--|
| a. Acts 8:1 | ___ | May have friction in the congregation. |
| b. 1 Cor. 11:16 | ___ | May need instruction on taking offerings. |
| c. 1 Cor. 11:18 | ___ | There might be persecution from without. |
| d. 1 Cor. 11:22 | ___ | There might be division in the church. |
| e. 1 Cor. 16:1 | ___ | There could be leadership issues. |
| f. 3 John 9-10 | ___ | There could be incorrect communion services. |

The local church (one group) in one building is not the entire "Body of Christ". There are lots of local congregations containing believers & unbelievers. All the believers, whether in congregations or not, wherever they are - are in the "Body of Christ". They ARE "The Church" (a member of the body, the church).

WHO STARTED OR BUILT THE CHURCH?

Matthew 16:15 Jesus said to the disciples, (regardless of what others say about Me) "Who do you say that I am?"

Matthew 16:16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God."

Matthew 16:17 Jesus answered Peter, "Blessed are you Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh & blood has not revealed this to you, but rather My Father Who is in heaven".

Matthew 16:18 Jesus added, "I say to you Peter that on this rock (your confession & statement) I will build My church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it."

21. What was the question that Jesus asked the disciples?

22. What was Peter's response to Jesus' question?

23. How do we know that Peter got the right answer?

24. How did Peter know the right answer?

25. Who did Jesus say was going to build the church? _____

26. Who did Jesus say the church belonged to? _____

27. Is there anywhere in these verses where it says that anyone else is going to be building the church besides Christ? Yes No

28. Peter's name means "rock" but does it say anywhere in these verses that Peter is "The Rock" upon which the church will be built? Yes No

I think we can all agree that, since Jesus is the head of the church, there is no man on the planet that qualifies to be foundation of the church. Why would "The Christ - the Son of the Living God" build the church on anyone but Himself?

Ephesians 2:19-20

Now, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been on the foundation of the apostles & prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you are also being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

29. Jesus is the chief cornerstone (The main rock) of the foundation. Yes No

What is the "Rock". Rather, Who is the "Rock". Peter said it: "Lord, You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God". (Lord, you are "Rock".

THOSE OF US WHO ARE BELIEVERS, WE STAND ON THAT ROCK IN THE BODY.