

First words:

The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Church

The word for church in the Greek language (the New testament was written in Greek) is "ekklesia". It literally means "called out ones" but basically means "a gathering together". It is used 114X in the N.T. By itself it does not have to have a religious connotation. (see **Acts 19:32**). However, it should be noted that 109X out of the 114X it is used it refers to the religious assembly known as the church.

The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Church

A. It is Jesus' church, built on Him and is an offensive entity that will be victorious.

**Matthew 16:18** - *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.*

B. It is special, having Jesus in its midst. It also possesses authority and organization.

**Matthew 18:17** - *If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.*

C. It is owned by Christ who has purchased it with His own blood.

**Acts 20:28** - *Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.*

D. It is local in its work and expression

**1 Corinthians 1:2** - *To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours... .*

E. It is universal in its testimony and scope

**Ephesians 3:10** - *So that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.*

F. It is made up of Jew and Gentile brought together as one new man beginning at Pentecost

**Ephesians 2:15** - *By abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace...*

G. It is led by its head Christ who is also to have pre-eminence in it

**Colossians 1:18** - *And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.*

The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Church

A. The \_\_\_\_\_ and His \_\_\_\_\_

**John 10:27-29** - *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.*

Implication - Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd who gave His life for us, His sheep (His church) to bring us into His fold.

**Hebrews 13:20** - *Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant.*

B. The \_\_\_\_\_ (Family) of \_\_\_\_\_

**Ephesians 2:19** - *So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God...*

Implication - Having received Christ as Savior we are now in a new relationship with God and are considered part of His family with other believers.

**1 Timothy 3:15** - *If I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.*

C. The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

**Ephesians 5:24–25** - Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. <sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her...

Implication - Christ has taken us as His bride, giving His life for us.

**2 Corinthians 11:2–3** - For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. <sup>3</sup> But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

D. The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

**Ephesians 2:20–22** - Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Implication - We are the temple (Greek “naos”) of God through the Holy Spirit, each member is a stone, and Jesus is the Chief Cornerstone.

**1 Peter 2:5** - You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

E. The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

**Ephesians 1:22–23** - And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

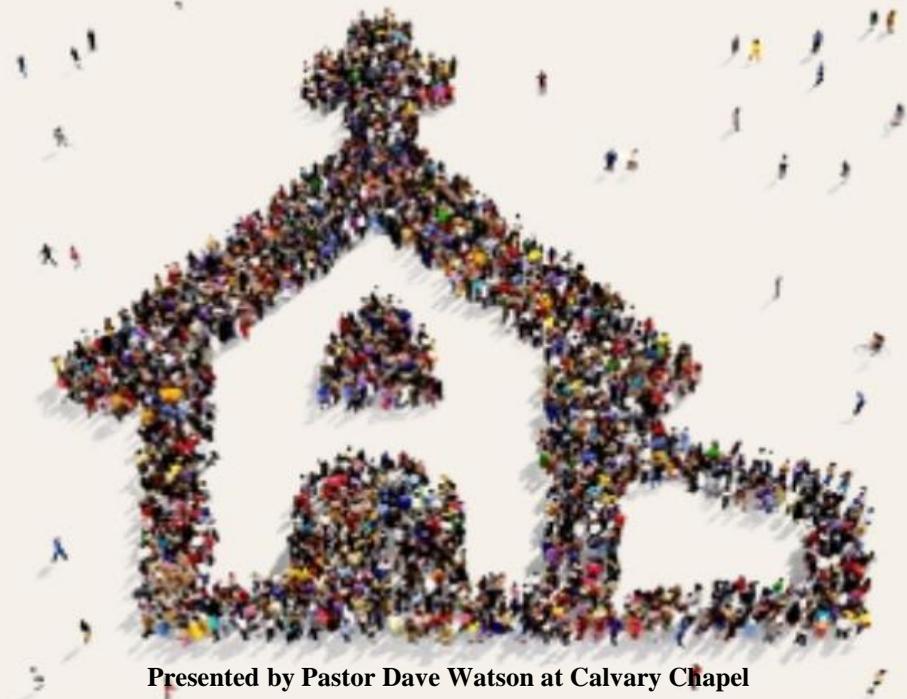
Implication - Christ is the head (Greek “kephale”) and we are body (Greek “soma”) - This is the most extended metaphor for the church in the New Testament.

**1 Corinthians 12:13** - For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.



# LET THE CHURCH BE The Church:

THE CHURCH'S  
DEFINITION AND BEGINNING



Presented by Pastor Dave Watson at Calvary Chapel