

THE CHURCH - ECCLESIOLOGY

Beginning - Pentecost - Acts 2

What it is not - Israel, Building, Mystical Body of Christ, Denomination, Organization

What it is The church is a local assembly of believers as well as the invisible body of Christ composed of all true believers from Pentecost to the rapture.

Definition - Ecclesia (gr.) - the called out ones

“To many people, church is just a place. It’s a building, bricks and mortar, a destination. We go to church. The problem with thinking “we go to church” is that it gives us a consumer mindset: I’m looking for a church that meets my needs. I need a good church that will help me. The church is actually God’s chosen vehicle to meet- through other human beings- people’s true needs (including our own)” - *“The Christian Atheist” by Craig Groeschel*

The Church is the only organization in the world that exists for the sole benefit of the non members.
-William Temple

Structure

- Bishop - Elder – Pastor

1 Timothy 3:1-7 The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. **2** Therefore an overseer[a] must be above reproach, the husband of one wife,[b] sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, **3** not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. **4** He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, **5** for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? **6** He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. **7** Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

- Deacon - comes from *diakonos* = to serve

1 Timothy 3:8-13 Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued,[a] not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. **9** They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. **10** And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. **11** Their wives likewise must[b] be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. **12** Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. **13** For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

Ordinances of the Church

- An ordinance is a reminder of some historical event of great spiritual significance.
- An ordinance is something we do as a result of grace and mercy, not to obtain grace and mercy.
- We recognize two ordinances
 - The Lord's Supper
 - Believer's Baptism