

# ***A People of God!***

*Church? Why Belong? Why Bother?*

*“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.”*

*Matthew 16:18 ESV*

## **A Biblical Church is an Assembly of Hand Pick Individuals**

**Focus on \_\_\_\_\_!**

### **I. Meaning of “Church” before the \_\_\_\_\_**

**Five Contemporary Uses of \_\_\_\_\_**

1. Place of \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ of Believers
3. \_\_\_\_\_ of All Believers
4. Particular \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Organization of Believers

#### **What Does the \_\_\_\_\_ “Church” Mean?**

From Scottish *Kirk* & German *Kirche* from a Greek word meaning “belonging to the Lord”

#### **What Does the \_\_\_\_\_ translated “Church” Mean? (Ekklesia)**

Ekklesia - “an assembly of citizens, the legislative assembly”

*“Now some cried out one thing, some another, for the assembly was in confusion, and most of them did not know why they had come together... But if you seek anything further, it shall be settled in the regular assembly.”*

*Acts 19:32,39 ESV*

#### **How is the Word Used in the \_\_\_\_\_? (Greek Translation of Old Testament)**

Used close to 100 times, it always means an assembly, convocation or congregation for almost any type of gathering.

### **II. Meaning of “Church” after the \_\_\_\_\_**

Used 117 times with 109 used as a technical term for the Christian assembly

#### **Two Uses of Church—A \_\_\_\_\_ Assembly**

##### **1. A \_\_\_\_\_ Church**

*“Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.”*

*1 Thessalonians 1:1 ESV*

##### **2. An \_\_\_\_\_ Church**

*“That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church.”*

*1 Corinthians 4:17 ESV*

##### **3. A \_\_\_\_\_ of Churches**

*“And I was still unknown in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ.”*

*Galatians 1:22 ESV*

##### **4. \_\_\_\_\_ Churches**

*“Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches.”*

*1 Corinthians 7:17 ESV*

## Two Uses of Church—A \_\_\_\_\_ Assembly

### 1. Focused on All \_\_\_\_\_

*“And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria,... But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.”*  
Acts 8:1–3 ESV

### 2. All Who are \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ through all Ages

*“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.”*  
Colossians 1:18 ESV

### 3. It is Not the Invisible Church but the \_\_\_\_\_ Church

It is the universal fellowship of believers who met in local assemblies. It cannot be known or seen.

**Local and Universal Assembly are the Only Two Uses for Church in the New Testament.**

## III. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Church— A People of God

### \_\_\_\_\_ by God

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love”*  
Ephesians 1:3–4 ESV

(Also: 1 Peter 2:9-10)

### \_\_\_\_\_ Christ

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;”*  
2 Corinthians 5:17–18 ESV

### \_\_\_\_\_ the Spirit

*“So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.”*  
Philippians 2:1–2 ESV

*“To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.”*  
Colossians 1:2 ESV

## **A Biblical Church is an Assembly of Hand Pick Individuals Focus on Honoring Jesus!**

*“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.”*  
Matthew 16:18 ESV