

“the church”

The Church

Colossians 1:18

“the church”

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**And he is the head of the body,
the church; he is the beginning
and the firstborn from among
the dead, so that in everything
he might have the supremacy.**

“the church”

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord.

“the church”

The Foundation of the Church

Matthew 16:13-19

13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” **14** They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

15 “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” **17** Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.

18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. **19** I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

“the church”

1 Corinthians 3:11

**For no one can lay any
foundation other than
the one already laid,
which is Jesus Christ.**

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Characteristics of the church

- **Autonomy**
- **Jesus’s Lordship**
- **Covenant**
- **Baptized believers**

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The Ministry of the Church:

Matthew 28:18-20

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

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**The structure of the church:
Its scriptural officers are pastors
and deacons. While both men
and women are gifted for service
in the church, the office of
pastor is limited to men as
qualified by Scripture.**

“the church”

Acts 20:28

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

“the church”

2 Timothy 4:1-2

1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge:

2 Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction.

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1 Timothy 3:1-7

1 Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task.

2 Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

3 not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.

4 He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect, **5** (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)

6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. **7** He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

“the church”

“We also affirm that the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture. This assertion has become controversial only in recent years. Until recently, all Christians affirmed that the pastoral office is limited to men recognized as fully qualified by biblical definition.

The Bible clearly reveals a complementary relationship between men and women. Both are equally created in the image of God. Both are gifted for service in the church. But the New Testament defines a pastor as a man who is the “husband of one wife” and a man who is gifted by God to fulfill the pastoral role.

God's instruction is for men to assume and fulfill the preaching ministry. Many other ministries and responsibilities are available in the church for both men and women. As Christ made abundantly clear, there is no shortage of work for His disciples to do."

“the church”

Acts 6:2-4

2 So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.

3 Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them **4** and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.”

“the church”

1 Timothy 3:8-13

8 Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. **9** They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. **10** They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.

11 In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. **12** A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well. **13** Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

“the church”

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

“the church”

The Body of Christ

Colossians 1:18

**And he is the head of the body,
the church; he is the beginning
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Ephesians 1:19b-23

That power is like the working of his mighty strength 20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,
23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

“the church”

1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27

12 The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. **13** For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body — whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free — and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

14 Now the body is not made up of one part but of many.

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it

“the church”

“The New Testament assumes that all Christians will share in the life of a local congregation, worshiping in the body, accepting its nurture and discipline, and sharing its ministry and witness. Christians who refuse to join other believers disobey God and spiritually impoverish themselves.”

Reformation Study Bible

Applications

- **You must be a member of a local church to call yourself a Christian**
- **In the local body you must serve in some capacity**
- **Every church and every Christian has the duty to tell all about the Good News**

Final Thoughts

“The New Testament gives no support to spectator Christianity. Christians are to invest themselves in the ministry of the local congregation, finding and filling roles in service, leadership, and ministry.”

Final Thoughts

"The church is not an audience, it's an army"

JD Greear

Final Thoughts

Ephesians 5:23-32

23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. **24** Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. **25** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, **27** and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. **28** In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

29 After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for his body, just as Christ does the church — **30** for we are members of his body. **31** “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” **32** This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.

Final Thoughts

Hebrews 10:24-25

24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. **25** Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.