

The Church = "Ekklesia" = called out Memory verse... Matt 16:18

Objectives: To understand the definition of the church, basic characteristics of the church and the basic interaction of the members of the Body of Christ.

Introduction: The Church consists of many believers both local and abroad who represent the true children of God that are "called out" of the world through salvation in Jesus Christ. Each member, being just as important as the next, have a unique role in the Body of Christ and together we all fulfill the plan of God.

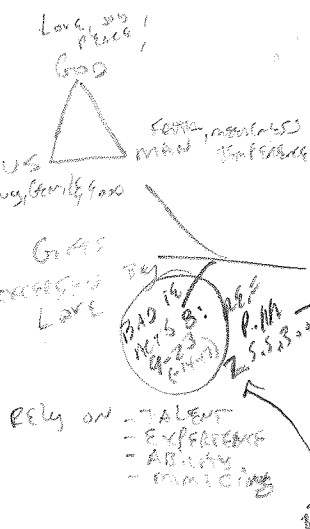
I. The Church... (Body of Christ) - ACTS 2:4

- called out - GEN 12:13, JOS 24:2-3, 1 Jn 4:5, 1 Pet 2:9-10, JAS 1:19, James 4:4, Col 1:13
- body of Christ - ACTS 3:13, Col 1:18/24, Rom 12:4-5, Eph 1:22-23, 1 Cor 12:27
- rewards/judgement for saints - Lk 14:14, 1 Pet 5:4, Matt 16:27
- engaged/raptured/married - Eph 5:27, Rev 19:7-9, Rom 7:4, II Cor 11:2

- represents Jesus - Acts 11:26, II Cor 3:2-3, I Pet 4:12-16, ACTS 26:28
- O.T. typology (Israel) - I Cor 10:1-11, Ex 19:5-6
- 3 purposes - Phil 2:15, Matt 28:19-20, Acts 1:8, II Cor 5:18-20

II. The members of the Church (Body of Christ)...

- part of a whole/prominent equality - Rom 12:4-5, I Cor 12:14-28
- unified - Rom 12:4-5, Rom 15:5-7
- always seek fruit of the Spirit rather than the gifts of the Spirit - I Cor 12:31, I Cor 13, I Cor 14:12, John 15:8, GAL 5:22-23
- always seek to be used by the Spirit rather than to use Spirit - Rom 8:14, Jn 5:30, I Sam 13:16, Ex 19:5, Ex 22:23, Eph 4:3, Deut 13:4, Rev 1:10/2:7/2:11/2:29/3:6/3:13/3:22, Jn 14:26, I Sam 15:22-23, Jn 16:13, I Cor 12, I Cor 13, I Cor 14
- support the weak - Acts 20:35, II Sam 9, Gal 6:1-3, Rom 15:1-2, I Cor 12:24-26
- saved only are members - Rom 8:9, John 10:15-16, II Tim 2:19, John 10:26-27



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Conclusion: The church has a powerful and unique ministry coupled with tremendous responsibilities. Moreover, God expects the church to proclaim the message of atonement through Jesus by the light that they shine and the seasoning of their salt. We must ensure that we are constantly living to the degree in Jesus that God's standard calls for. We must represent our Saviour and Father well, for the world needs to see and hear the real church...the Body of Christ.

Participatory review:

- What is the definition for The Church?
- Who are the true members of The Church?
- What O. T. nation was a Typology of the N. T Church?
- What are some of the purposes and trademarks of The Church?
- Explain what type of church Jesus is coming back for?

Key terms:

- Church
- Body of Christ
- Ekklesia
- rapture
- "caught up"
- "bema" seat