

We are the Church

First we need to understand:

- What is Church anyway?
- How do we define it?

Ekklesia – Greek word translated as “CHURCH” The called out ones.

The church is a _____.

“ ... You are a member of God’s very own family... and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.” Ephesians 2:19 (LB)

The word "church" in the N.T. never refers to a building or a place. It always refers to a *people*: either the total number of believers who have ever lived, or a local group of those believers

The church is the _____ of _____ that are built together into a spiritual building for God’s habitation.

Ephesians 2:20-22 (New Living Translation)

²⁰ We are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. ²¹ We who believe are carefully joined together, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. ²² Through him you Gentiles are also joined together as part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

God is trying to build our lives into all He has for us, and much of that is accomplished in our lives through our being part of the local church.

The Church is the _____ of the World

Ephesians 1:23 (The Message)

The church, you see, is not peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the church. The church is Christ's body, in which he speaks and acts, by which he fills everything with his presence

Planted in the House of God

Psalm 92:12 “those that are planted in the house of the Lord will flourish...”

God’s desire is that our lives would be fruitful, and just like any good fruit bearing tree it is important where you are planted. In order for fruit trees to flourish there are a few things that are important.

- Good soil.
- Life enhancing environment.
- Nourishment

Plant a tree in the wrong place and it just doesn’t flourish. (apple trees just cannot survive in the desert.)

Doing Life Together

Acts 2:42, 46-47

⁴² All the believers devoted themselves... ⁴⁶ They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity —⁴⁷ all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

When people were touched by God (saved) we see here in Acts that they “devoted themselves” to God and His plan. This is where we see a two-fold expression in the local church.

They met weekly in large gatherings and then house to house in smaller groups. The purpose of small groups is to complement the weekly gathering and create an enriching church relational experience for the individual. It is a big part of us “Doing Life together”.

It’s about “Growing in relationship to God and in relationships with other believers”.

Communion

Luke 22:19-20

¹⁹“And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

²⁰Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.

- Remembering Jesus
- Recognizing what Jesus did

The Lord Jesus instituted Communion as a symbol of the New Covenant