

Ephesians Series

Lesson #137

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Dean Bible Ministries

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What is the Church? – Introduction

Ephesians 4:11–16



EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK
& WARFARE
OF THE BELIEVER

Eph. 4:11, “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

Eph. 4:12, “for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

Eph. 4:13, “till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;”

Eph. 4:14, “that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

Eph. 4:15, “but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

Eph. 4:16, “from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

Eph. 1:22, “And He (God the Father) put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,”

Eph. 1:20, “which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

Eph. 1:21, “far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

Eph. 1:22, “And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,

Eph. 1:23, “which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”

- 1. Christ is seated at the right hand of God the Father.**
- 2. Christ is positionally over all of the angelic creatures and over the Church. In Col. 2:10 He is the “head” of all principality and power.**
- 3. Christ is the head of the Church, also stated in Eph. 4:15, 5:23; Col. 1:18.**
- 4. The Church is further defined as “His Body”, Rom. 7:4; 12:5; 1 Cor. 10:16, 17; 12:12–27; Eph. 4:4, 12, 16; 5:30; Col. 1:18, 24; 2:19, 29; 3:15; Heb. 13:3.**
- 5. Our passage has the purpose of informing us about these gifted leaders Christ gives to the Church.**

What the Bible Teaches About

The Church (Ecclesiology)



1. What is the Church?

What does the word “church” mean?

When did the church begin?

Who is in the church?

What are the two uses of the word “church”?

1. The English word “church” comes from the root *kirk* or *kirken*, which traces back to the Greek *kyriakon*, “that which belongs to the Lord.”

1 Cor. 11:20, “Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord’s Supper.”

Rev. 1:10, “I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,”

2. ἐκκλησία (*ekklēsia*), assembly, meeting, congregation, church

In the Hebrew Old Testament, the word *qahal* was translated into the Septuagint (LXX) with the word *ekklesia*, but it did not refer to an assembly for worship of God, but often referred to simply a large assembly of people, such as the congregation of Israel in the wilderness.

2. ἐκκλησία (*ekklēsia*), assembly, meeting, congregation, church

This word is used 114× in the New Testament. It is used only two times in the Gospels—both in Matthew. It is used for a synagogue, the congregation of Israel in the Old Testament.

Acts 19:39, “But if you have any other inquiry to make, it shall be determined in the lawful assembly.”

Acts 19:41, “And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly.”

Acts 7:38, “ ‘This is he who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the Angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers, the one who received the living oracles to give to us,’ ”

Acts 9:31, “Then the churches [*ekklysia* is singular] throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.”

- 1. There is the *universal* church—all believers in heaven or on earth.**
- 2. There is the *visible* church—local churches in various areas, especially those I am acquainted with.**
- 3. There is the *local* church—the particular assembly with which I have my primary and sustained relation.**

Uses of “Kingdom”

- a. The *universal* rule of God over all of His creation
- b. The *theocratic* rule of God over Israel
- c. The future reign of Messiah from the throne of David in Jerusalem. This is an *earthly, geo-political* kingdom that is yet future. Its initial stage is 1,000 years, Rev. 20:1–8

When Did the Church Begin?

Matt. 16:18, “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”

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Acts 5:11, “So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.”

When is the Sign of the Church?

1. The Baptism by the Holy Spirit, unique to the Church Age

It was future for John the Baptist, Matt. 3:11, and for Jesus just before He ascended.

Acts 1:5, “for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

When is the Sign of the Church?

2. The Holy Spirit Descended in Acts 2

Acts 2:2, “And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Acts 2:3, “Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.

Acts 2:4, “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

Acts 8:14, “Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them,

Acts 8:15, “who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:16, “For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Acts 8:17, “Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.”

Paul

Acts 9:17, “And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’ ”

Acts 9:31, “Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.”

Acts 10:44, “While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.

Acts 10:45, “And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.”

Acts 11:15, “And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning.

Acts 11:16, “Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, ‘John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ”

Eph. 3:2, “if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you,

Eph. 3:3, “how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already,

Eph. 3:4, “by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),

Eph. 3:5, “which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:

Eph. 3:6, “that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,”

Eph. 2:14, “For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,

Eph. 2:15, “having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,”

Eph. 2:16, “and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

Eph. 2:17, “And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.

Eph. 2:18, “For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.”