


# THE CHURCH

## STUDY 9 Ecclesiology



**A** “According to the New Testament, the church of Jesus Christ is a glorious church. Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it. He builds it. He walks in the midst of the golden lampstands. It is His church and He will present it unto Himself without spot or wrinkle.”<sup>1</sup> –George W. Peters

### I. THE BASIS OF THE CHURCH

*“The church is never a place, but always a people; never a fold but always a flock; never a sacred building but always a believing assembly. The church is you who pray, not where you pray. A structure of brick or marble can no more be a church than your clothes of serge or satin can be you.”*<sup>2</sup>–John V. Havlik

#### A. DEFINITION

*“The Greek word in the New Testament for the English word church is 'ekklesia'. It is derived from the verb 'ekkaleo', a compound of 'ek', out and 'kaleo', to call or summon, which together means to call out.”*<sup>3</sup>–Robert L. Saucy

The term “ekklesia” is used broadly in the Bible of non-Christian general meetings (*Acts 19:32, 39, 41; 7:38*), in the Septuagint (a Greek translation of the Old Testament) it is used for a congregation of Israelites (*Psalms 22:22*). The idea of the church is developed in the New Testament as a more specific term for those called out of the world and joined to Christ.

Matthew 16:15-18 is the first mention of the church in this sense in the Bible. Use this passage to answer the following questions:

*(Matthew 16:15-18; Acts 9:31; 20:28; 1 Corinthians 11:18; Ephesians 1:22; 5:29; Colossians 1:18; Hebrews 12:23)*

*(Remember that throughout the study the verses in parenthesis and italics are for further study.)*

Ⓡ When is the church to be built? From the time that Jesus is speaking these words is it in the past, present or future?

Ⓡ What is the nature of the church to which Jesus refers (for example, is He talking about a local gathering of believers, a universal group of people, both, a physical structure, a denomination)?

Ⓡ What kind of power and authority will it have?

Ⓡ To whom does the church belong?



Church

® (Continued from Matthew 16:15-18) What is the nature of its foundation?  
(See 1 Corinthians 3:11; Ephesians 2:20; 1 Peter 2:4-7 for help.)



**T** *The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
She is His new creation, by Spirit and the Word;  
From Heav'n He came and sought her to be His holy bride,  
With His own blood He bought her and for her life He died.<sup>4</sup>*

–Samuel J. Stone

## B. THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH

*"A basic question which divides theologies is when the church began."<sup>5</sup> –Charles Ryrie*  
Some theologians teach that the church includes all believers back to the time of Adam or to Abraham. Others teach that it began with John the Baptist. Still others teach that it began with Paul in Acts 9 or in Acts 28. Another view is that the church began at Pentecost. Consider numbers 1 and 2 below which give support to this view.:

### 1. THE BODY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

® Why is the concept of Jews and Gentiles joined together in one body in Ephesians 3:6 spoken of as a mystery in Ephesians 3:1-5?  
(2 Corinthians 3; Hebrews 8; Ephesians 3:1-13)

*"The idea of the church as an 'ekklesia' composed of saints widely scattered geographically is never found in the Old Testament."<sup>6</sup> –John Walvoord*

### 2. THE INITIATION INTO THE BODY

® What is the means of entrance into the body of Christ (the church) according to 1 Corinthians 12:13?

® When was this to occur according to Jesus in Acts 1:5?

® When did this occur according to Peter in Act 11:15-16?  
(Acts 2:1-4)

## II. THE BREADTH OF THE CHURCH (UNIVERSAL-ORGANISM)

*“In general, the concept of the church falls into two major categories. The principle emphasis in the New Testament is on the church as an organism. . . . Another concept, however, is that of the local church or the organized church.”*<sup>7</sup> –Lewis S. Chafer

*“Only God knows who is in this vast invisible cloud of witnesses across the ages. And it is universal since He calls men and women from all races, colors, backgrounds, and corners of the globe.”*<sup>8</sup> –Charles Colson

### A. THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

Entrance into the body of Christ, the church (*Colossians 1:24*), occurs when one places their faith in Christ by believing the gospel (*Ephesians 3:6*). It is accomplished by the baptism of the Spirit (*1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Galatians 3:27*). We are joined to Christ (*1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 5:30*), and to all other believers who are “in Christ” (*Ephesians 4:25; Romans 12:4-5*).

Ⓡ How does Ephesians 4:4-6 describe the concept of a universal church? (*Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:14-18; 3:6, 10, 21; 4:15-16; Colossians 1:18-19*)

Many efforts are being made around the world to have religious organizational unity. This is also being attempted in places between Christianity and other religions toward the goal of a one world religion.

Ⓡ What should be the basis of unity from Ephesians 4:1-6? (*John 17:21-26; Ephesians 2:14; 4:13*)

Being a member of the universal church means that we are “in Christ” (*Colossians 3:1-4*) and that Christ is in us (*Colossians 1:24-27*).

Ⓡ Because we have been called to “one body” how should we live –*Colossians 3:12-15*?



### B. FIGURES FOR THE CHURCH

*“Virtually all figures for the church emphasize an essential, living, love relationship between Christ and the church.”*<sup>9</sup> –Howard A. Snyder

Ⓡ Look at the chart on page 145. How do these figures illustrate the concept of a universal church?

Ⓡ What is Christ’s desire for His church–*Ephesians 5:25-27*? (*Romans 8:28-30; Colossians 1:21-23, 27-28*)

## For Further STUDY



® Pick two of the figures from the chart on page 145 and explain what insight they give you into both the nature and function of the church.

® What do they reveal about your relationship as a member of the church to Christ?

® What do they reveal about your relationship to other believers?

## III. BOUNDARIES OF THE CHURCH (LOCAL-ORGANIZED)

### A. ORGANIZATION

#### 1. THE LOCAL CHURCH

*A local church is an assembly of professing believers in Christ who have been baptized and who are organized to do God's will. Notice: (1) There must be a profession of faith. (2) The New Testament knows nothing of unbaptized church members. (3) Churches were always organized as soon as possible (Acts 14:23) an informal, unorganized fellowship of believers does not constitute a local church. (4) There is purpose—doing God's will which is expressed in many ways (like observing the ordinances, being open and available for ministry to all age groups in all parts of the world, etc.)<sup>10</sup> –Charles Ryrie*

*“But only by belonging to a visible community of faith can individuals truly make visible the reality of the church. From the beginning it was clearly God's plan that the Body would be made manifest to the world by gathering into confessing communities to fulfill His mission—that is, to administer the sacraments, preach the Word, and make disciples. Thus, immediately after Pentecost, He established the pattern: Individual believers were to gather into particular communities.”<sup>11</sup> –Charles Colson*

® In Acts 2:41-42, what occurred when these new believers joined together?

## For Further STUDY

® What observations can you make about the early local church from each of the following passages?:

Acts 14:23



Local Church

## For Further STUDY CONTINUED

Acts 20:27-32

1 Corinthians 16:1-2

1 Corinthians 16:19  
(Romans 16:5; Colossians 4:15; Philemon 1:2)

1 Timothy 3:15

1 Timothy 4:13

## 2. CHURCH GOVERNMENTS

*“Three forms of church government are found in the history of the church, each having its roots in apostolic times.*

*1. The episcopalian form of government recognizes a bishop, or church leader by some other designation, who has power by virtue of his office of directing the local church. . . . the Roman Catholic Church . . . the Episcopalian Church or the Methodist Episcopal body, . . . [The precedent of the apostles is referred to as the basis.]*

*2. A representative form of government recognizes the authority of duly appointed representatives of local churches, usually grouped geographically, and is illustrated in the Reformed and Presbyterian churches. . . . [Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5; Hebrews 13:7, 17; 1 Corinthians 5; 1 Timothy 5:20; Acts 15:6, 19, 28]*

*3. The congregational form of government is where the seat of authority is in the local congregation, and important matters are decided by the congregation without respect to authority of other churches or officials. . . . Congregational churches (United Church of Christ), the Disciples churches, and Baptist churches. [Matthew 18:17; Acts 6:3,5; 15:2,30; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 2 Corinthians 8:19]”<sup>12</sup>*

® The debate as to which form or combination of forms is correct still continues. How is your church governed and what do you see as the Scriptural basis?

® Some teach that there is no need for church organization at all. How would you respond to this from 1 Corinthians 14:33,40? (Titus 1:5)



Church Government

# THE CHURCH

- I. The basis
- II. The breadth
- III. Boundaries
  - A. Organization
    - 1. The local church
    - 2. Church governments
    - 3. Para-local church

## 3. PARA-LOCAL CHURCH GROUPS

Paul had a traveling team in Acts 20:4 made up of seven men from four locations. ® Do you think they constituted a local church, a para universal church (para meaning alongside) or a para local church? Why? (*Acts 13:1-3; Romans 15:19-23; 2 Corinthians 8:23; Ephesians 4:11-12; Philippians 2:25; 2 Timothy 4:9-12; 3 John 5-10*)

® How was the limited and specialized ministry that Christ had sent Paul to do different from the ministry of a local church in 1 Corinthians 1:14-17? (*Acts 9:15-16; 1 Corinthians 3:5-11; 2 Corinthians 10:13-16; Galatians 2:1-2, 7-9*)

® In what practical way can the attitude in 1 Corinthians 12:21 be resisted by those in para-local church groups toward their local church?

## For Further STUDY



Look back at the definition of local church on page 134.

® How would a Christian school or Christian group differ from a local church?

® Do you think that men like Billy Graham and Bill Bright of Campus Crusade are given by God to the universal church, the local church or both? Why?

## B. LEADERSHIP IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

### 1. ROLES OF LEADERSHIP

*“Though all do not agree, it appears that the elders and bishops occupied the same position in the church—the term elder emphasizing more the office and the term bishop [overseer is the same word] emphasizing more the function of that office, namely, general oversight.”<sup>13</sup>—Charles Ryrie*

® What two types of leaders are mentioned in Philippians 1:1?

# THE CHURCH

I. The basis  
II. The breadth  
III. Boundaries  
    A. Organization  
    B. Leadership  
        1. Roles of leadership

® What can you learn about the nature of deacon (servant) ministry from its origin in Acts 6:1-3?

## 2. RESPONSIBILITY TO LEADERSHIP

® Leadership is required by God for the church. How in practical ways can you fulfill Hebrews 13:7,17 toward your leaders?  
(Galatians 6:6; 1 Peter 5:5-6)



## 3. RESPONSIBILITY OF LEADERSHIP

® What were the elders to do in Acts 20:17,28?  
(Titus 1:9; 1 Peter 1:1-6)

® What should elders be doing well—1 Timothy 5:17?

*"Elders also had pastoral care of the church."<sup>14</sup> –Robert L. Saucy*

® How is shepherding or pastoring described in 1 Peter 5:1-4?  
(Ezekial 34:1-10; Psalm 23; John 21:15-17)

## 4. AUTHORITY FOR LEADERSHIP

Authority for leadership comes through the recognition of the body and the Bible.  
*"While the act of ordination is the acknowledgment by the church of its God-appointed ministers, it is never the basis for their ministry."<sup>15</sup> –Robert Saucy*

® What is the standard of authority that Paul passed on to Timothy in 2 Timothy 1:13; 3:16-17? (2 Timothy 2:2; 3:15-17; 4:1-5)

® What observations can you draw in regard to women and leadership from the following passages:  
Judges 4:4

1 Timothy 2:12

Titus 2:3-5

*(John 4:39; Acts 2:17-18; 21:9; Acts 18:2-3, 25-26; 1 Corinthians 11:1-16; 14:34-36; Galatians 3:28; Philippians 4:2-3; Romans 16:1-3; 1 Corinthians 11:5; 1 Timothy 2:9-15 1 Timothy 3:10-11).*

# THE CHURCH

- I. The basis
- II. The breadth
- III. Boundaries
  - A. Organization
  - B. Leadership
    - 1. Roles of
    - 2. Responsibility to
    - 3. Responsibility for
    - 4. Authority for

## For Further STUDY

In looking briefly over the qualifications for elders and deacons in 1 Timothy 3:1-13, why do you think the emphasis is on character more than skills?

### C. ORDINANCES

*"A working definition of an ecclesiastical ordinance might be 'an outward rite prescribed by Christ to be performed by His church.'"*<sup>16</sup> –Charles Ryrie

#### 1. THE LORD'S SUPPER

® What is one purpose you can see for the Lord's Supper in 1 Corinthians 11:24-26? (*Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:19-20; John 6:35-63; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 1 Corinthians 11:17-24*)

#### 2. WATER BAPTISM

The mode of baptism, sprinkling or immersion, has been much debated down through the years. Consider these two comments in regard to the definition of the word baptism.

*"Lexical authorities agree that the primary meaning of baptize is to dip or immerse. The word baptize is the transliteration of the Greek term baptizo, . . ."*<sup>17</sup> –Robert L. Saucy  
*"Most definitions are constructed in terms of the etymological idea of immerse or submerge, but a theological definition of baptism would be best understood in terms of identification or association with something like a group or message or experience."*<sup>18</sup>  
–Charles C. Ryrie

® What mode of baptism do you consider most scriptural and why?

® What observations can you make about baptism from Matthew 28:19-20? (*Acts 2:38, 41; 8:12, 36-38; 9:18; 10:47; 16:14-15, 33; 18:8; 19:5; 1 Corinthians 1:14-17; 1 Peter 3:20*)

® Why do you think the people in Acts 19:4-5 were re baptized?

® Of what is water baptism a sign and a commitment—Romans 6:3-4?



Ordinances

## For Further STUDY

Transubstantiation is a view of the Lord's Supper which teaches that the bread and the wine literally become the body and blood of Christ (John 6:53-57) and are offered again upon being served. ® How would Hebrews 9:28 speak to this?

- I. The basis
- II. The breadth
- III. Boundaries
  - A. Organization
  - B. Leadership
  - C. Ordinances
    - 1. Lord's Supper
    - 2. Water baptism

Acts 2:38 has been the object of confusion. It says, "Repent, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins." The confusion comes from understanding the preposition "for" as "in order that". This interpretation does not fit the gospel message elsewhere (*John 1:12; 3:16; Acts 2:21; Romans 1:16; Ephesians 2:8-9*). Thus, it seems that the better translation is the second meaning of the term which is "because". A viable translation of Acts 2:38 is, "Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ because of the forgiveness of your sins."

® What does Jesus promise the thief on the cross even though he could not be baptized in water in Luke 23:39-43?

## D. RESPONSIBILITY

*"It is no good supposing that membership of the universal church of Christ is enough; we must belong to some local branch of it."*<sup>49</sup> –John R. W. Stott

® What will happen if we are not fitted closely and held together in tight commitment somewhere even though we are part of the universal church—Ephesians 4:16?  
(*Proverbs 18:1; Philippians. 1:27*)

® How can you specifically apply Hebrews 10:24-25?

## For Further STUDY

® Why do you think it is important to believe in both the universal and local aspects of the church?  
Why the universal?

Why the local?



## IV. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE CHURCH

### A. THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

(See the chart on page 146)

#### 1. TO GLORIFY GOD

® What is the overriding purpose of the church—Ephesians 3:21?  
(Matthew 5:16; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Ephesians 1:4-6,12; Revelation 5:11-14; 15:4)

#### 2. TO WORSHIP & SERVE GOD

Worship has been described as, "an active response to God whereby we declare His worth ... Worship means 'to attribute worth' to something or someone."<sup>20</sup>

There are many things we can do as acts of worship such as singing, praying, or meditating on His word.

® What is fundamental to a life of true worship and service according to Romans 12:1-2? (Exodus 20:1-6, Job 1:20-22; Malachi 1:6-14; Matthew 15:8; Colossians 1:8; 2:18-19)

® Christ addresses the church in Ephesus in Revelation 2:1-7 and affirms their perseverance in the truth. However, what does He have against them in verses 4-5 and how can we as members of the body of Christ be constantly on guard against this danger?

(2 Corinthians 11:2-4; Colossians 2:19; Ephesians 4:15)

#### 3. EVANGELIZE

Our worship will continue in heaven, but while on earth there is more for the church to do.

"The church therefore exists to carry out two functions—evangelism (to make disciples) and edification (to teach them)."<sup>21</sup>—Gene Getz

How is the body of called out believers described in 1 Peter 2:9 and for what purpose were they called out?

(Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; John 17:15-18, 23; Acts 1:8; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; 2 Timothy 4:2; Colossians 4:5-6)

#### 4. EDIFY

® How is the process of edification (or being built up) described in Colossians 2:6-7? (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 14:21-23; 15:36; 18:23; 20:32; Galatians 4:19; Ephesians 4:12-16; Colossians 1:28-29; 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12; 3:10-13; 5:11; 1 Timothy 4:11-16)



Worship

I. The basis  
II. The breadth  
III. Boundaries  
IV. The objective  
    A. The purpose  
    B. Vision

## B. THE VISION OF THE CHURCH

(See the chart on page 147.)

### 1. THE KINGDOM

An overarching concept in the Scripture for God's people, past, present and future is the Kingdom of God. (See the section on *The Millennial Kingdom in Study 10 on Prophecy, page 158.*)

® What are we encouraged to do in Matthew 6:33 and practically what do you think this means?

(Just a few of the many passages referring to the Kingdom: 1 Chronicles 29:11; Psalm 2:7-8; 47; 89; 93; 97; 99; 110; 145; Matthew 4:17; Matthew 6:9-10; Matthew 13:24-52; Luke 17:20-21; John 3:3; Acts 1:6-8; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Colossians 1:10-14; 2 Timothy 4:1-2; Hebrews 12:28-29; 2 Peter 1:10-11; Revelation 19:11-16)

### 2. THE NATIONS

® In Exodus 19:4-6, how was Israel in the Old Testament to be a mediator to the world?

(Psalm 86:9-10; Isaiah 43:10, 12, 21; 44:8; 49:6)

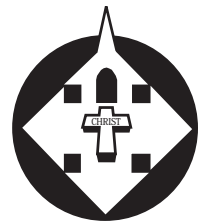
In the New Testament the word saint which is used of all Christians (*Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Colossians 1:1-2, 12*) is from the word 'hagios' meaning set apart. From this same word is derived the words holy and sanctify.

® In John 17:17-18,20, for what purpose are believers called out and set apart?

The church must be gripped with what grips the heart of God.

® In every generation what should God's blessing upon His people result in—Psalm 67:1-2?

(Genesis 22:18-19; Ezekial 36:22-23; Habakuk 2:14; Malachi 1:11; Psalm 2:8; 46:10; Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 24:46-49; John 3:16; 17:18, 20-23; 20:21-22; 1 Timothy 2:3-4; Revelation 5:9)



- I. The basis
- II. The breadth
- III. Boundaries
- IV. The objective
  - A. The purpose
  - B. Vision
    - 1. The kingdom
    - 2. The nations

## For Further STUDY

Look at chart on page 147. In the Old Testament, to come to God, one would have to *come* to a special location, the tabernacle (*Exodus 25:8*), or the temple. What was required from God's people was very detailed and structured (*Exodus 26:30; Acts 7:44; Hebrews 8:5*). In the New Testament the believer (*1 Corinthians 3:16*) and believers (*Ephesians 2:21-22*) are God's dwelling and the emphasis is on *going* (*Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 19:10*).

® Record your thoughts on any implications you can draw from this contrast between the Old and the New Testament. (For example: mobility, structure, organization, methods of reaching people.)

## C. THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

### 1. VARIETY OF MINISTRIES AND GIFTS

The church is to carry out many functions to fulfill the purposes for which it was brought into existence. There should be fellowship and caring (*Hebrews 10:24-25*), prayer and intercession (*1 Timothy 2:1-7*), preaching and teaching (*2 Timothy 4:2-4*), the meeting of needs in and outside of the body (*James 1:27*), worship and praise (*Ephesians 5:19*), carrying out the ordinances (*1 Corinthians 11:26*), evangelism (*Mark 16:15*), giving (*1 Corinthians 16:1-2*), the carrying out of discipline (*Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:1-2, 12-13*), building up believers (*Colossians 1:28-29*), training leaders and laborers (*Ephesians 4:11-13*) sending leaders and laborers (*Acts 13:1-3*), and reaching the nations (*Matthew 28:19-20*).

® What provision has God made for the carrying out of these variety of functions—*1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 11-12, 14*?

### 2. PRIESTHOOD OF THE BELIEVER

(See the chart on page 146.)

*"One of the foundations of Reformation truth was the concept of the priesthood of all believers. This not only has reference to the direct access of each member of the church to God through Christ the High Priest, but it also speaks of the ministry which each member of the church bears."*<sup>22</sup> –Robert L. Saucy

All Christians are called priests (*Romans 15:16; 1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 1:6; 5:10*). Each individual Christian is gifted for ministry (*1 Peter 4:10-11*).

® *Ephesians 4:11-13* is a key passage explaining how the ministry of the church is to take place. Meditate on this passage by putting it in your own words.

# THE CHURCH

® If you are not personally experiencing the process of Ephesians 4:11-13 who can you identify to ask if they would equip you and who can you serve by helping them become more like Christ?

- I. The basis
- II. The breadth
- III. Boundaries
- IV. The objective
  - A. The purpose
  - B. Vision
  - C. The work
    - 1. Ministries and gifts
    - 2. Priesthood of believer



Look back to the chart on page 146. It has been said, "What is everyone's responsibility is no one's responsibility." These purposes not only belong to the body of Christ, but to you as a member of the body of Christ.

® What can you do this week toward fulfilling these purposes?

**E***lect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,  
Her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth.  
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.<sup>23</sup>*

—Samuel J. Stov



# THE CHURCH

## Quiet TIME

® Over the next five days, read in your devotional times Revelation 2-3 and Ephesians 2-4 taking one chapter a day. Each day record your observations in regard to:

1. The purpose of the church.
2. The nature of the church.
3. Your responsibility in the church.
4. An application for today.

## KEY THOUGHT



® What is one truth (it may be a verse or a thought) you want to share with another this week from this study?

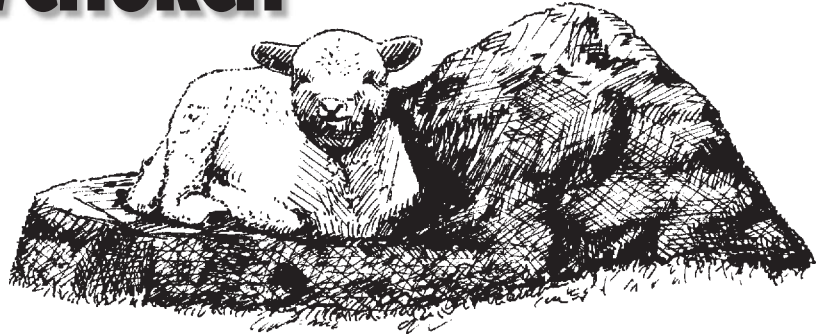


**G**rant, Lord, that with Thy direction, "Love each other," we comply,  
Aiming with unfeigned affection Thy love to exemplify;  
Let our mutual love be glowing; thus will all men plainly see,  
That we, on the one stem growing, living branches are in Thee.  
O that such may be our union, as Thine with the Father is,  
And not one of our communion e'er forsake the path of bliss;  
May our light 'fore men with brightness, from Thy light reflected shine;  
Thus the world will bear us witness, that we, Lord are truly Thine.  
—Nicolaus L. Von Zinzendorf

## For Further READING

- Colson, Charles. *The Body: Being Light in the Darkness*. Dallas: Word Publishing, 1992.
- Getz, Gene A. *Sharpening the Focus of the Church*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1974.
- Saucy, Robert L. *The Church in God's Program*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1972.
- Shelley, Bruce L., ed. *The Victor Know and Believe Series*. 8 vols. Wheaton: Scripture Press Publications, 1978. vol. 2: *The Church: God's People*, by Bruce L. Shelley.
- Snyder, Howard A.. *The Problem of the Wineskins*. Downers Grove: Inter Varsity Press, 1975.

## Nature OF THE CHURCH



CHRIST	THE CHURCH	PASSAGE
The Head	The Members of the Body	<i>1 Corinthians 12</i>
The Shepherd	The Sheep	<i>John 10</i>
The Cornerstone	The Living Stones	<i>Ephesians 2</i>
The Vine	The Branches	<i>John 15</i>
The High Priest	The Kingdom of Priests	<i>1 Peter 2</i>
The Last Adam	The New Creation	<i>1 Corinthians 15:45</i>
The Bridegroom	The Bride	<i>Ephesians 5:25-33</i>
The Heir	The Joint-Heir	<i>Romans 8:17</i>
The First Fruit	The Harvest	<i>1 Corinthians 15:23</i>
The Master	The Servants	<i>Colossians 4:1</i>
The Brother	The Family	<i>Hebrews 2:11</i>
The Commander	The Army	<i>2 Timothy 2:4– Matthew 16:18</i>
The Truth	The Pillar & Support of the Truth	<i>John 14:6– 1 Timothy 3:15</i>
In the Father	In the Father & the Son	<i>John 17:21</i>
The Father in Him	He is in the Church	<i>John 17:23</i>

## Purpose OF THE CHURCH



WORSHIP

*Glorify God*

Work of service      Building the body  
Equipping the saints

Evangelists

Pastor-Teachers

Teachers

Apostles & Prophets

*Ephesians 4:11-16*

Christ the foundation

25

EVANGELIZE

EDIFY & MULTIPLY



Equipped saints

Converts

*Matthew 28:19-20*



# THE CHURCH

## Vision OF THE CHURCH

THE OLD  
TESTAMENT

*The strategy has changed, but  
the vision remains the same.*

THE NEW  
TESTAMENT

Israel

Come

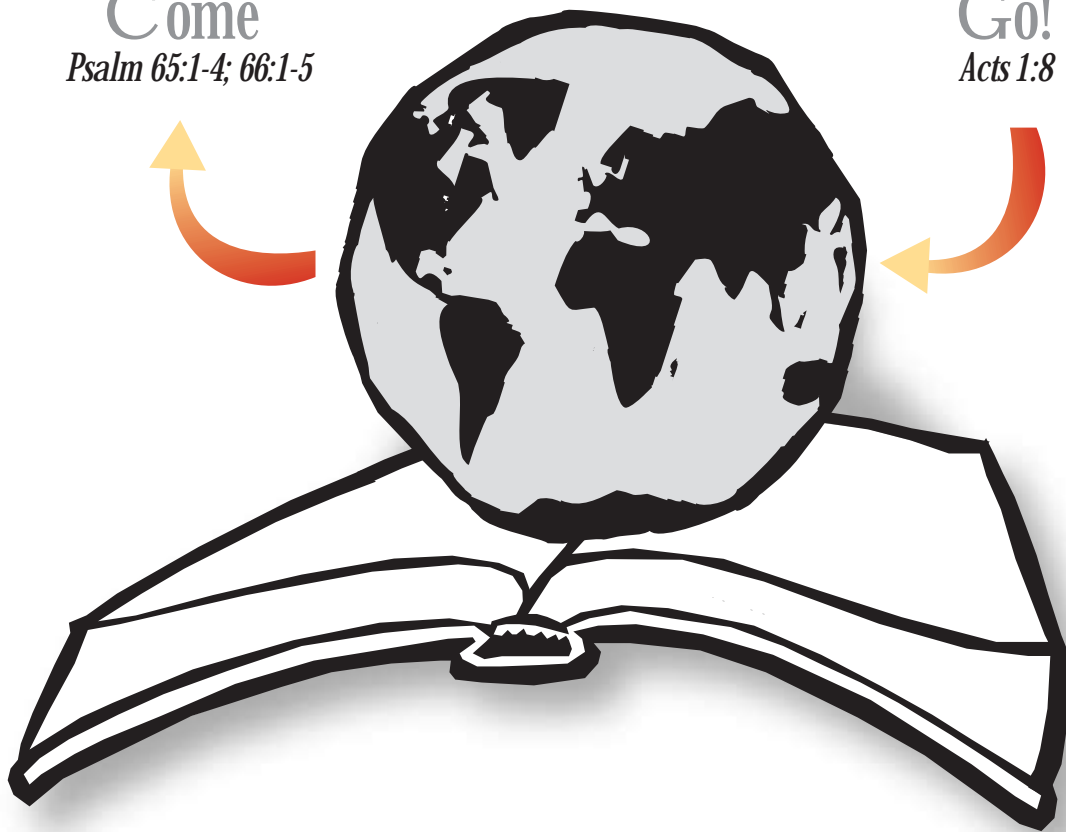
*Psalm 65:1-4; 66:1-5*

THE WORLD

The Church

Go!

*Acts 1:8*



**W**"We fall back into an Old Testament mindset, in which we look mostly at how many people come to the Temple for the ritual. . . . Whenever we make minister synonymous with clergy, we are pre-Christian. . . . If we could see the church as a society of ministers in the world, we could approach the radical change Christ sought to initiate."<sup>24</sup> -D. Elton Trueblood

## NOTES

- 1 George W. Peters, Preface in Gene Getz, *Sharpening the Focus of the Church*, p. 9.
- 2 John V. Havlik, *People Centered Evangelism*, p. 47.
- 3 Robert L. Saucy, *The Church in God's Program*, p. 11-12.
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