

Part 3. The Gospel

Lesson 2: The Church – The Called-Out Assembly

Lesson Summary

The Church, from the Greek word *ekklesia*, meaning “called-out ones,” is not a building but the gathered people of God (Matt. 16:18). It belongs to Christ, who builds, sustains, and governs it as its Head (Eph. 1:22; 5:23).

The Church exists to nurture spiritual growth through sound doctrine (Eph. 4:14), to foster fellowship and encouragement (Rom. 12:10; 1 Thess. 5:11), and to worship and pray together (Acts 2:42–47). It observes baptism and the Lord’s Supper as ordinances of obedience and unity (Rom. 6:3–5; 1 Cor. 11:23–26).

The mission of the Church is to proclaim the Gospel boldly and uncompromisingly (Matt. 28:18–20; Acts 1:8). Leadership functions are described in Ephesians 4:11–12 as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers—not as positions of status, but to equip believers for ministry.

Above all, the Church belongs to Jesus Christ, empowered by the Spirit and anchored in His Word, to be His witness in the world.

Key Takeaways

- **Meaning:** The Church (*ekklesia*) is the assembly of God’s called-out people, not a building (Matt. 16:18).
- **Christ as Head:** Jesus is the ruling authority over His Church (Eph. 1:22; Col. 1:18).
- **Purposes of the Church:**
 - Spiritual growth through sound teaching (Eph. 4:14).
 - Fellowship, encouragement, and love (Rom. 12:10; 1 Thess. 5:11).
 - Worship and prayer (Acts 2:42).
 - Observing ordinances—baptism and the Lord’s Supper (Rom. 6:3–5; 1 Cor. 11:23–26).
 - Proclaiming the Gospel without compromise (Acts 1:8).
- **Fivefold Ministry (Eph. 4:11–12):** Apostles (foundation-layers), prophets (truth-speakers), evangelists (gospel-proclaimers), pastors (shepherds), and teachers (instructors in truth).
- **Biblical Practice:** A true church worships in Spirit, teaches the Word, loves one another, prays fervently, ministers to the vulnerable, and equips believers for godly living (James 1:27; Titus 2:11–14).

Questions & Answers

1. **Q:** What does the word *ekklesia* mean?
A: “Called-out ones”—the Church is God’s people, not a building (Matt. 16:18).
2. **Q:** Who is the true Head of the Church?
A: Jesus Christ, who rules and sustains His Body (Eph. 1:22; Col. 1:18).

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3. **Q:** What are the primary purposes of the Church?
A: To teach sound doctrine, foster fellowship, worship and pray, observe baptism and communion, and proclaim the Gospel (Acts 2:42; Matt. 28:18–20).
4. **Q:** What are the two ordinances of the Church?
A: Baptism (Rom. 6:3–5) and the Lord’s Supper (1 Cor. 11:23–26).
5. **Q:** What is the mission of the Church?
A: To proclaim the Gospel faithfully to all nations (Matt. 28:19–20; Acts 1:8).
6. **Q:** What is the purpose of the fivefold ministry in Ephesians 4:11–12?
A: To equip the saints, build up the Body of Christ, and advance His mission.
7. **Q:** How should the Church function in practice?
A: By worshipping in Spirit, teaching Scripture, loving one another, praying, ministering to the needy, and equipping believers for holiness (James 1:27; Titus 2:11–14).

“The Church is not a building but the blood-bought, Spirit-filled Body of Christ—called out, built up, and sent forth under His Lordship.”