

A STUDY OF THE CHURCH

(*ekklēsia*, [1577](#))

by James T. Bartsch, [WordExplain](#)

The Bible text used herein is, except where indicated otherwise, the King James Version, which is public domain. Bold face, underlining and italicizing are the author's emphases. Added words in the original text are surrounded in brackets []. Four digit numbers refer to Strong's Concordance numbering system. This study amounts to a fairly exhaustive word study based on the Greek word *ecclesia*, which means *assembly*, usually translated *church*. There may be a Scripture or two that do not appear here. Some Scriptures appear more than once, as they can be categorized in more than one way.

I. THE DEFINITION OF THE CHURCH

A. A Secular, Political or Quasi-Political Gathering

1. The quasi-political gathering of a sizable portion of a city for unofficial business (Actually a mob gathered in the city coliseum): Acts 19:32
Some therefore cried one thing, and some another: for the **assembly** was confused; and the more part knew not wherefore they were come together.
2. The legal representatives of a city government: Acts 19:39 But if ye enquire any thing concerning other matters, it shall be determined in a lawful **assembly**.
3. The quasi-political gathering of a sizable portion of a city for unofficial business: Acts 19:41 And when he had thus spoken, he dismissed the **assembly**.

B. The (Local) Church as an Ethnic / National / Geographical Entity Relating to God and / or Christ

1. Church as an Ethnic / National Entity
 - a. As Referring to Israel: Acts 7:38 This is he, that was in the **church** in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sinai, and [with] our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:
 - b. As Referring to Local Churches Consisting of Gentiles (Nations): Romans 16:4 Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the **churches** of the Gentiles.

2. The Church as a Geographical (Local) Entity

a. The Church of a City

- (1) Corinth: 1 Corinthians 1:2 Unto the **church** of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called [to be] saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:
- (2) Thessalonica: 1 Thessalonians 1:1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the **church** of the Thessalonians [which is] in God the Father and [in] the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace [be] unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- (3) Thessalonica: 2 Thessalonians 1:1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the **church** of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
- (4) Seven Cities in Asia: Revelation 1:11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send [it] unto the seven **churches** which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.
 - (a) Ephesus: Revelation 2:1 Unto the angel of the **church** of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;
 - (b) Smyrna: Revelation 2:8. And unto the angel of the **church** in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;
 - (c) Pergamos: Revelation 2:12. And to the angel of the **church** in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;
 - (d) Thyatira: (Rev 2:18) And unto the angel of the **church** in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet *are* like fine brass;
 - (e) Sardis: (Rev 3:1) And unto the angel of the **church** in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

- (f) Philadelphia: (Rev 3:7) And to the angel of the **church** in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;
 - (g) Laodicea: (Rev 3:14) And unto the angel of the **church** of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;
- b. The Churches of a Region / Nation
- (1) Of Judea
 - (a) Galatians 1:22 And was unknown by face unto the **churches** of Judaea which were in Christ:
 - (b) 1 Thessalonians 2:14 For ye, brethren, became followers of the **churches** of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they [have] of the Jews:
 - (2) Of Asia
 - (a) Revelation 1:4 John to the seven **churches** which are in Asia: Grace [be] unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;
 - (b) Revelation 1:11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send [it] unto the seven **churches** which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.
3. Local Churches as Relating to Christ
- a. Local Churches as Being in Christ: 1 Thessalonians 2:14 For ye, brethren, became followers of the **churches** of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they [have] of the Jews:
 - b. Local Churches as Being Judged / Evaluated by Christ: Revelation 2:23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the **churches** shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

- c. Local Churches as Belonging to Christ: Romans 16:16 Salute one another with an holy kiss. The **churches** of Christ salute you.
4. Local Churches as Belonging to God
 - a. 1 Corinthians 1:2 Unto the **church** of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called [to be] saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:
 - b. 1 Thessalonians 2:14 For ye, brethren, became followers of the **churches** of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they [have] of the Jews:
 - c. 2 Thessalonians 1:4 So that we ourselves glory in you in the **churches** of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:
 - d. 1 Timothy 3:5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the **church** of God?)
 - e. 1 Timothy 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the **church** of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.
5. Local Churches as Existing in Reference to God and the Lord Jesus Christ
 - a. At Thessalonica: 1 Thessalonians 1:1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the **church** of the Thessalonians [which is] in God the Father and [in] the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace [be] unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - b. At Thessalonica: 2 Thessalonians 1:1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the **church** of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
6. The Local Church as Assembling Together:
 - a. 1 Corinthians 11:18 For first of all, when ye come together in the **church**, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it.
 - b. 1 Corinthians 14:23 If therefore the whole **church** be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in [those that are] unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?

C. The Universal Church as an Entity Existing in Relationship to God or Christ

1. The Universal Church as Being an Entity Separate from Israel and from the Gentiles (Nations of the World), and Belonging to God: 1 Corinthians 10:32 Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the **church** of God:
2. The Universal Church In Its Relationship with Christ
 - a. The **Church** as Being Built By Jesus
 - (1) Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my **church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
 - (2) Acts 2:47 Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the **church** daily such as should be saved.
 - b. As Being Headed Up By Christ
 - (1) Christ as Head over all things [including the Church] for the benefit of the church: Ephesians 1:22 And hath put all [things] under his feet, and gave him [to be] the head over all [things] to the **church**,
 - (2) Christ as stated to be Head
 - (a) And Savior of the Church as His Body: Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the **church**: and he is the saviour of the body. (NKJ: ...and He is the Savior of the body.)
 - (b) Of the Body -- the Church: Colossians 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the **church**: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all [things] he might have the preeminence.
 - (3) The Church as the Body of Christ
 - (a) And Savior of the Church as His Body: Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the **church**: and he is the saviour of the body. (NKJ: ...and He is the Savior of the body.)
 - (b) Of the Body -- the Church: Colossians 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the **church**: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all [things] he might have the preeminence.

- (c) Colossians 1:24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the **church**:
- (4) The Church as Subject to Christ, its Head: Ephesians 5:24 Therefore as the **church** is subject unto Christ, so [let] the wives [be] to their own husbands in every thing.
- c. The Church As the Object of Christ's Love (and model of the relationship between a husband and his wife): Ephesians 5: 25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the **church**, and gave himself for it;
- d. The Church as Being Nurtured to Glorious Perfection by Christ: Ephesians 5:27 That he might present it to himself a glorious **church**, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.
- e. The Church as the Object of Christ's Nurture and Care: Ephesians 5:29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the **church**:
- f. The Relationship between Christ and the Church as Being a New (Testament) Revelation: Ephesians 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the **church**.
- g. The Church as Being the Possession of the Firstborn (Christ): Hebrews 12:23 To the general assembly and **church** of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

II. THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH

A. The Church as Related to Christ

- 1. The Church As Being Headed Up By Christ
 - a. Christ as Head over all things [including the Church] for the benefit of the church: Ephesians 1:22 And hath put all [things] under his feet, and gave him [to be] the head over all [things] to the **church**,
 - b. Christ as stated to be Head
 - (1) ...And Savior of the Church as His Body: Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the **church**: and he is the saviour of the body. (NKJ: ...and He is the Savior of the body.)

- (2) Of the Body -- the Church: Colossians 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the **church**: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all [things] he might have the preeminence.
- c. The Church as the Body of Christ
- (1) The Church as Christ's Body is headed up by Him and Saved by Him: Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the **church**: and he is the saviour of the body. (NKJ: ...and He is the Savior of the body.)
 - (2) The Church as Related to and Subject to the All-Preeminent Christ: Colossians 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the **church**: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all [things] he might have the preeminence.
 - (3) Paul as Being Willing to Suffer for the Sake of Christ's Body, the Church: Colossians 1:24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the **church**:
- d. The Church as Subject in All Things to Christ, its Head: Ephesians 5:24 Therefore as the **church** is subject unto Christ, so [let] the wives [be] to their own husbands in every thing.
2. The Church As Being Married to Christ
- a. The Relationship between Christ as Saving Head of the Church a Model for the Relationship between Husband and Wife: Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the **church**: and he is the saviour of the body. (NKJ: ...and He is the Savior of the body.)
 - b. The Church as Submissive to Christ: 5:24 Therefore as the **church** is subject unto Christ, so [let] the wives [be] to their own husbands in every thing.
 - c. The Church As the Object of Christ's Love and Sacrifice (and model of the loving sacrifice of a husband for his wife): Ephesians 5: 25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the **church**, and gave himself for it;

B. The Church as Having Human Leaders

1. Apostles

a. As Related to Local Churches

- (1) As Having Constant Care for Churches: 2 Corinthians 11:28 Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the **churches**.
- (2) As Being Resisted in a Church: 3 John 1:9-10 9 I wrote unto the **church**: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. 10 Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth [them] out of the **church**.

2. Elders / Overseers

a. As titled:

- (1) Ephesian leaders called elders: Acts 20:17 And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the **elders** of the **church**.
- (2) Same Ephesian leaders called overseers: Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you **overseers**, to feed the **church** of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

- #### b. As appointed (here, by the apostles): Acts 14:21-23 21 And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and [to] Iconium, and Antioch, 22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, [and] exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God. 23 And when they had ordained them elders in every **church**, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

c. Job description

- (1) Overseeing the Church: Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you **overseers**, to feed the **church** of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.
- (2) Feeding the Church: Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to **feed** the **church** of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

- (3) Taking Care of the Church: 1 Timothy 3:5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the **church** of God?)
- (4) Letter Sent Instructing an Overseer on How to Conduct Himself While Leading the Church: 1 Timothy 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the **church** of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.
- (5) Praying for the Sick: James 5:14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the **church**; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

C. Communication and the Church

1. Churches as Having or Receiving Messengers, Whether Human or Angelic
 - a. 2 Corinthians 8:23 Whether [any do enquire] of Titus, [he is] my partner and fellowhelper concerning you: or our brethren [be enquired of, they are] the messengers of the **churches**, [and] the glory of Christ.
 - b. Revelation 1:20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven **churches**: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven **churches**.
 - c. Revelation 2:1 Unto the angel of the **church** of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;
 - d. Revelation 2: 8. And unto the angel of the **church** in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;
 - e. Revelation 2:12 And to the angel of the **church** in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;
 - f. Revelation 2:18 And unto the angel of the **church** in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet [are] like fine brass;
 - g. Revelation 3:1 And unto the angel of the **church** in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

- h. Revelation 3:7 And to the angel of the **church** in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;
 - i. Revelation 3:14 And unto the angel of the **church** of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;
 - j. Revelation 22: 16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the **churches**. I am the root and the offspring of David, [and] the bright and morning star.
2. Letters or Portions of Letters Written as Authoritative Scripture to the Churches
- a. To Corinth
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 1:2 Unto the **church** of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called [to be] saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:
 - (2) 2 Corinthians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy [our] brother, unto the **church** of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia:
 - b. To Thessalonica
 - (1) 1 Thessalonians 1:1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the **church** of the Thessalonians [which is] in God the Father and [in] the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace [be] unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (2) 2 Thessalonians 1:1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the **church** of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
 - c. Letters as Scripture Circulated among the Churches: Colossians 4:16 And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the **church** of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the [epistle] from Laodicea.
 - d. To the Church of Which Gaius Was a Member: 3 John 1:9 I wrote unto the **church**: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.

e. To the Seven Churches in Asia

- (1) Revelation 1:4 John to the seven **churches** which are in Asia: Grace [be] unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;
- (2) Revelation 1:11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send [it] unto the seven **churches** which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.
- (3) Revelation 2:1 Unto the angel of the **church** of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;
- (4) Revelation 2: 8 And unto the angel of the **church** in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;
- (5) Revelation 2:12 And to the angel of the **church** in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;
- (6) Revelation 2:18 And unto the angel of the **church** in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet [are] like fine brass;
- (7) Revelation 3:1 And unto the angel of the **church** in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.
- (8) Revelation 3:7 And to the angel of the **church** in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;
- (9) Revelation 3:14 And unto the angel of the **church** of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

f. As a Divine Communication

(1) As a Communication from the Holy Spirit (Concerning Reward for Overcoming)

- (a) Revelation 2:7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the **churches**; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.
- (b) Revelation 2:11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the **churches**; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.
- (c) Revelation 2:17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the **churches**; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth [it].
- (d) Revelation 2:29 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the **churches**.
- (e) Revelation 3:6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the **churches**.
- (f) Revelation 3:13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the **churches**.
- (g) Revelation 3:22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the **churches**.

(2) As a Communication from Jesus Christ

- (a) Revelation 2:1 Unto the angel of the **church** of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;
- (b) Revelation 2: 8 And unto the angel of the **church** in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;
- (c) Revelation 2:12 And to the angel of the **church** in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;
- (d) Revelation 2:18 And unto the angel of the **church** in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet [are] like fine brass;

- (e) Revelation 3:1 And unto the angel of the **church** in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.
 - (f) Revelation 3:7 And to the angel of the **church** in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;
 - (g) Revelation 3:14 And unto the angel of the **church** of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;
 - (h) Revelation 22: 16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the **churches**. I am the root and the offspring of David, [and] the bright and morning star.
3. As thanking: Romans 16:4 Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the **churches** of the Gentiles.
4. As receiving greetings
- a. The Greeting of a Church En Route Completing a Missionary Endeavor: Acts 18:22 And when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up, and saluted the **church**, he went down to Antioch.
 - b. Romans 16:5 Likewise [greet] the **church** that is in their house. Salute my wellbeloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ.
 - c. Galatians 1:2 And all the brethren which are with me, unto the **churches** of Galatia:
5. As greeting
- a. Romans 16:16 Salute one another with an holy kiss. The **churches** of Christ salute you.
 - b. 1 Corinthians 16:19 The **churches** of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the **church** that is in their house.

D. A Local Church as Hosted in Someone's Home

1. Romans 16:5 Likewise [greet] the **church** that is in their house. Salute my wellbeloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ.
2. Romans 16:23 Gaius mine host, and of the whole **church**, saluteth you. Erastus the chamberlain of the city saluteth you, and Quartus a brother.
3. 1 Corinthians 16:19 The **churches** of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the **church** that is in their house.
4. Colossians 4:15 Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the **church** which is in his house.
5. Philemon 1:2 And to [our] beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellowsoldier, and to the **church** in thy house:

E. Churches and Money

1. Churches Being Held Up as an Example (of Giving)
 - a. The Churches of Macedonia as Contributing toward the Poor Saints of Jerusalem: 2 Corinthians 8:1 Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the **churches** of Macedonia; (cf. 8:2-5)
 - b. The Church at Philippi as Contributing toward Paul's Ministry: Philippians 4:15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no **church** communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.
2. Churches as Having Chosen Someone to Represent Them Financially: 2 Corinthians 8:19 And not [that] only, but who was also chosen of the **churches** to travel with us with this grace, which is administered by us to the glory of the same Lord, and [declaration of] your ready mind:
3. As Being Appealed to Give Financially: 2 Corinthians 8:24 Wherefore shew ye to them, and before the **churches**, the proof of your love, and of our boasting on your behalf.
4. As Supporting an Apostle: 2 Corinthians 11:8 I robbed other **churches**, taking wages [of them], to do you service.
5. As Being Spared the Supporting of an Apostle: 2 Corinthians 12:13 For what is it wherein ye were inferior to other **churches**, except [it be] that I myself was not burdensome to you? forgive me this wrong.

III. THE FUNCTION AND MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

A. The Church as Glorifying God

1. As Displaying God's Multi-Faceted Wisdom for the Benefit of the Elect Angelic Realm: Ephesians 3:10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly [places] might be known by the **church** the manifold wisdom of God,
2. The Church As the Means of Facilitating, through Christ, God's Glory: Ephesians 3:21 Unto him [be] glory in the **church** by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.
3. Christ's Praise of God in the Midst of the Church: Hebrews 2:12 Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the **church** will I sing praise unto thee.

B. The Church as Being Set Apart Exclusively for God or Christ

1. 1 Corinthians 1:2 Unto the **church** of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called [to be] saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

C. Spiritual Gifts in the Church

1. Gifted People in the Church
 - a. Acts 13:1 Now there were in the **church** that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.
 - b. 1 Corinthians 12:28 And God hath set some in the **church**, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.
 - c. Paul, an Apostle who Formerly Persecuted the Church: 1 Corinthians 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the **church** of God.
2. The Use of Spiritual Gifts in the Church
 - a. To Refrain from Using Tongues so as to Instruct Orally: 1 Corinthians 14:19 Yet in the **church** I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that [by my voice] I might teach (2727, κατηχεω) others also, than ten thousand words in an [unknown] tongue.

b. The Use of the Gift of Tongues in the Church

- (1) The Inappropriate Use of Tongues: 1 Corinthians 14:23 If therefore the whole **church** be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in [those that are] unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?
- (2) The Non-Exercise of a Gift in the Church: 1 Corinthians 14:28 But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the **church**; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

D. Interrelationships¹ within the Church and Between Churches

1. As capable of being offended / damaged by Christians' actions

- a. 1 Corinthians 10:32 Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the **church** of God:
- b. 1 Corinthians 11:22 What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the **church** of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise [you] not.
- c. 3 John 1:10 Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his [Diotrephes'] deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth [them] out of the **church**.

2. Churches as Having a Good Opinion about Someone

- a. 2 Corinthians 8:18 And we have sent with him the brother, whose praise [is] in the gospel throughout all the **churches**;
- b. 3 John 1:6 Which have borne witness of thy charity before the **church**: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well:

E. Helpers in the Church

1. A servant of the church: Romans 16:1 I commend unto you Phoebe our sister, which is a **servant** of the **church** which is at Cenchrea:

¹ This section was formerly entitled, "Fellowship in the Church." To my knowledge, however, there are no single verses which contain both [2842](#) *koinonia* and [1577](#) *ekklesia*. Furthermore, I have checked to see if any extended passages incorporate both church and fellowship. To my knowledge none implicitly or explicitly correlate the two concepts / words.

F. Prayer by the Church

1. For the victim of persecution: Acts 12:5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but **prayer** was made without ceasing of the **church** unto God for him. ²
2. Acts 14:23 (KJV) And when they had ordained them elders in every **church**, and had **prayed** with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed. ³
3. James 5:14 (KJV) Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the **church**; and let them **pray** over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:
4. Prayers by those within the church, but without explicit reference to the term church (*ekklēsia*) ([1577](#))
 - a. As an Apostolic priority: Acts 6: 2-4 2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples [unto them], and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. 3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. 4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.
 - b. See a listing of prayer ([4335](#)) and praying ([4336](#))

IV. THE ESTABLISHMENT, GROWTH, AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE CHURCH

A. The Establishment / Founding of the Church

1. As Predicted by Christ: Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my **church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
2. As Based upon the Truth of Jesus' Being the Messiah! Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my **church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
3. As Instituted by Christ's Sacrificial Death: Eph 5:25-26 25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

² Acts 12:5 is the only single verse which includes both [1577](#), *ekklēsia* (church) and [4335](#), *proseuche* (prayer.)

³ Acts 14:23 and James 5:14 are the only two verses that include both [1577](#) *ekklēsia*, church and [4336](#), *proseuchomai*, to pray.

B. The Growth of the Church

1. The (Physical) Growth of the Church
 - a. Acts 2:47 Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the **church** daily such as should be saved.
 - b. Acts 9:31 Then had the **churches** rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.
 - c. By Evangelism (Despite Persecution): Acts 11:19-22 19. Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only. 20 And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus. 21 And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.
 - (1) By Deliberately Targeting a Different People Group: Acts 11:19-22 19. Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only. 20 And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus. 21 And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.
 - (2) Aided by the Sovereign Hand of God: Acts 11:19-22 19. Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only. 20 And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus. 21 And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.
 - d. Acts 16:4-5 4 And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem. 5 And so were the **churches** established in the faith, and increased in number daily.

2. Church Planting / Missionary Work

a. Examples of Paul's doing church planting work. (In fairness, it should be noted that only one verse in this rather lengthy section contains the word church – Acts 13:1.)

(1) As Instigated by the Holy Spirit: Acts 13:1-3 1. Now there were in the **church** that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. 3 And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid [their] hands on them, they sent [them] away.

(2) As Targeting the Most Receptive Audience -- Synagogues

(a) Announcing a Message from God's Word: Acts 13:4-5 4. So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus. 5 And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to [their] minister.

(b) Targeting Synagogues: Acts 13:14 But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down.

(c) Accepting an Invitation to Speak to the "Men of Israel" and God-fearing Gentiles: Acts 13:15-16 15 And after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, [Ye] men [and] brethren, if ye have any word of exhortation for the people, say on. 16 Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with [his] hand said, Men of Israel, and ye that fear God, give audience.

(d) Reviewing the History of Israel: Acts 13:17 The God of this people of Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an high arm brought he them out of it.

(e) Introducing Royalty, and David, God's Chosen Dynasty: Acts 13:21-22 21 And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the

space of forty years. 22 And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the [son] of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

- (f) Introducing Jesus, of David's Royal Line and the Ultimate Savior / Deliverer of Israel: Acts 13:23 Of this man's seed hath God according to [his] promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:
- (g) Announcing the Message of Salvation -- Jesus, Ignorantly Killed by Israel (Yet According to God's Plan as Revealed in Scripture) and Raised by God from Death: Acts 13:26-30 26 Men [and] brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent. 27 For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day, they have fulfilled [them] in condemning [him]. 28 And though they found no cause of death [in him], yet desired they Pilate that he should be slain. 29 And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took [him] down from the tree, and laid [him] in a sepulchre. 30 But God raised him from the dead:
- (h) Announcing Jesus as God's Provision for Forgiveness of Sin and Complete Acquittal through Faith! Acts 13: 38-39 38 Be it known unto you therefore, men [and] brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: 39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.
- (i) The Faith of Many Jewish and Gentile Listeners: Acts 13:42-43 42. And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath. 43 Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.
- (j) The Rejection by the Jewish Majority: Acts 13:45 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming.

- (k) Paul's Turning to the Gentiles, Fulfilling Scripture: Acts 13:46-47 46 Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. 47 For so hath the Lord commanded us, [saying], I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.
 - (l) The Gentiles' Joyful Praise of God's Word: Acts 13:48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.
 - (m) The Saving Faith of Elect Gentiles: Acts 13:48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.
 - (n) The Ensuing Spread of the Message of Christ: 49 And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region.
- b. Appointing Elders in the New Churches: Acts 14:23 And when they had ordained them elders in every **church**, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.
- c. Missionary Report to the Sending Church
- (1) Acts 14:27 And when they were come, and had gathered the **church** together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.
- d. Confirmation of Newly-Planted Churches
- (1) Acts 15:41 And he went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the **churches**.
- e. Letter Sent Instructing an Apostolic Delegate on How to Conduct Himself While Leading the Church in the Founder's Absence: 1 Timothy 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the **church** of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

C. The Improvement or Edification (Building Up) of the Church

1. The statement of Edification: Acts 9:31 Then had the **churches** rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.
2. The Scenario for Edification -- Through Freedom from Persecution: Acts 9:31 Then had the **churches** rest throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.
3. The Description of Edification -- Being Established in the Faith: Acts 16:4-5 4 And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem. 5 And so were the **churches** established in the faith, and increased in number daily.
4. The Superintending of Church Growth: Acts 11:21-26
 - a. By Sending a Trusted Delegate to Oversee and Exhort: Acts 11:21-24 21 And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord. 22 Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the **church** which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch. 23 Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord. 24 For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.
 - b. By Requisitioning Additional Help in Teaching: Acts 11:25-26 25 Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul: 26 And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the **church**, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.
5. The Process of Edification
 - a. The Word of God:
 - (1) As Stated: Eph 5:25-26 25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the **church**, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,
 - (2) As Illustrated through Teaching: Acts 11:25-26 25 Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul: 26 And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the **church**, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

- b. By Passing on the Decrees of the Apostles and Elders: Acts 16:4-5 4 And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem. 5 And so were the **churches** established in the faith, and increased in number daily.
- c. Edifying the Church Through the Exercise of Spiritual Gifts
 - (1) Through the Exercise of Prophecy Rather than Tongues: 1 Corinthians 14:4 He that speaketh in an [unknown] tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesies **edifieth** the **church**.
 - (2) Through the Exercise of Prophecy Rather than Tongues: 1 Corinthians 14:5 I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater [is] he that prophesies than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the **church** may receive **edifying**.
 - (3) Through the Use of Appropriate Spiritual Gifts: 1 Corinthians 14:12 Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual [gifts], seek that ye may excel to the **edifying** of the **church**.
 - (4) Through the Exercise of Exhortation: Acts 11:22-24 22 Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the **church** which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch. 23 Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord. 24 For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.
 - (5) Through the Exercise of Teaching: Acts 11:25-26 25 Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul: 26 And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the **church**, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.
6. The Concomitants of Edification: Associated with walking in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit: Acts 9:31 Then had the **churches** rest throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria, and were **edified**; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

7. A Broad Spectrum of Churches as Having Uniform Policies and Procedures:
 - a. The policy of abiding by dress codes in worship: 1 Corinthians 11:16 But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the **churches** of God.
 - b. The policy of female subordination in communication within the assembly: 1 Corinthians 14:34-35 34 Let your women keep silence in the **churches**: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but [they are commanded] to be under obedience, as also saith the law. 35 And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the **church**.
 - c. The policy concerning giving: 1 Corinthians 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the **churches** of Galatia, even so do ye.
 - d. The policy of having an orderly regimen for prophesying: 1 Corinthians 14:33 For God is not [the author] of confusion, but of peace, as in all **churches** of the saints.
 - e. The policy of caring for needy widows: 1 Timothy 5:16 If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the **church** be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed.

D. Doctrine in the Church

1. Teaching in the **Church**: Acts 11:26 And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the **church**, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.
2. Uniform teaching for all churches
 - a. 1 Corinthians 4:17 For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every **church**.
 - b. 1 Corinthians 7:17 But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all **churches**.
3. Doctrinal Clarification for the Church
 - a. A local church seeking doctrinal clarification: Acts 15:3 And being brought on their way by the **church**, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren.

- b. The mother church preparing to provide doctrinal clarification: 4 And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the **church**, and [of] the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them.
- c. The mother church providing doctrinal clarification: Acts 15:22 Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole **church**, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; [namely], Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren:
- d. The establishment of churches in the faith by providing doctrinal clarification: Acts 16:5 And so were the **churches** established in the faith, and increased in number daily.

E. Discipline in the Church

- 1. Matthew 18:17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell [it] unto the **church**: but if he neglect to hear the **church**, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.
- 2. Acts 5:11 And great fear came upon all the **church**, and upon as many as heard these things.
- 3. The Church as Having a Value Judgment of Individuals: 1 Corinthians 6:4 If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the **church**.
- 4. 1 Corinthians 11:22 What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the **church** of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise [you] not.
- 5. 3 John 1:10 Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his [Diotrephes'] deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth [them] out of the **church**.

F. The Suffering of the Church

- 1. 1 Thessalonians 2:14 For ye, brethren, became followers of the **churches** of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they [have] of the Jews:
- 2. Acts 14:2-23 21 And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and [to] Iconium, and Antioch, 22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, [and] exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God. 23 And when they had ordained them elders in every **church**, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

G. Persecution Directed Against the Church

1. Acts 8:1 And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the **church** which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.
2. Acts 8:3 As for Saul, he made havoc of the **church**, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed [them] to prison.
3. Freedom from Persecution: Acts 9:31 Then had the **churches** rest throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.
4. Growth through Speaking / Evangelism Despite Persecution: Acts 11:19-22 19. Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only. 20 And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus. 21 And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.
5. Acts 12:1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth [his] hands to vex certain of the **church**.
6. Prayer For the Victim of Persecution: Acts 12:5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the **church** unto God for him.
7. 1 Corinthians 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the **church** of God.
8. Galatians 1:13 For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the **church** of God, and wasted it:
9. Persecution as an Example of Paul's (misguided) Religious Zeal: Philippians 3:6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the **church**; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.
10. 1 Thessalonians 2:14 For ye, brethren, became followers of the **churches** of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they [have] of the Jews:
11. A Church as a Model of Patient Endurance in Persecution: 2 Thessalonians 1:4 So that we ourselves glory in you in the **churches** of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

V. THE DESTINY OF THE CHURCH

Christ's Presentation of the Church to Himself in Glorious, Sinless Perfection:

Ephesians 5:27 That he might present it to himself a glorious **church**, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

VI. CENTRAL PASSAGES ON THE CHURCH

A. Ephesians 5:23-33: Marriage as Illustrating Christ and His Church. This is a central passage: *ekklesia* occurs 6 times here! Key verse – 5:32 -*This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the **church**.* Christ wants and will achieve an obedient body, of which He is the Head, and a glorious and holy wife, of which He is the husband!

1. Christ as head of the church 5:23
 - a. The church as Christ's body:
 - (1) *For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the **church**: and he is the saviour of the body. 5:23*
 - (2) *For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. 5:30*
 - b. Christ as the Savior of His body, the church: *and he is the saviour of the body. 5:23*
 - c. The church as subject to Christ: *Therefore as the **church** is subject unto Christ, so [let] the wives [be] to their own husbands in every thing. 5:24*
2. Christ as loving the church
 - a. Demonstrated by His sacrificing Himself for the church 5:25
*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the **church**, and gave himself for it;*
 - b. Christ nourishes and cherishes His (body, the) church: *For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the **church**: 5:29*
3. Christ's present sanctification of the church -- Through the washing (cleansing) of the Word: *That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 5:26*
4. Christ's goal for the church
 - a. His present goal for the church -- Total submission: 5: 24
*Therefore as the **church** is subject unto Christ, so [let] the wives [be] to their own husbands in every thing.*
 - b. His future goal: *That he might present it to himself a glorious*

church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. 5:27

- (1) A glorious church
- (2) Having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing
- (3) Being holy and without blemish

5. Applications:

a. The way husbands and wives ought to relate to one another:

(1) *22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 5:22-23*

(2) As Christ is the savior of the body, the church, so ought a man to be the savior of the body of which he is the head, namely, his wife. *For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 5:23*

(3) *Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so [let] the wives [be] to their own husbands in every thing. 5:24*

(4) *So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. 5:28*

(5) *Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife [see] that she reverence [her] husband. 5:33*

b. Headship in love and submissive glorification of the head are integral parts of both human marriage and Christ's relationship with His Church

B. 1 Corinthians 14. A treatise on the proper use of tongues and prophecy in the church.

1. 14:4. The gift of prophecy has a greater benefit for the church than does the gift of tongues. "He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the **church**."
2. 14:5. The person who prophesies is greater than he who speaks in tongues because he does far better in building up the church. "I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the **church** may receive edifying."
3. 14:12. Because it is impossible to understand a foreign language unless one has either learned it or there is an interpreter present, the church should seek

to excel in gifts that actually build up the church. "Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the **church**."

4. 14:19. It is preferable to speak five intelligible words in church than ten thousand words in a language that no one understands. "Yet in the **church** I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue."
5. 14:23. If the whole church comes together and everyone is speaking in a foreign language and an unbeliever comes in, he will think everyone is crazy. "If therefore the whole **church** be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?"
6. 14:28. If there is no interpreter present in the church, the tongues speaker should remain silent. "But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the **church**; and let him speak to himself, and to God."
7. 14:32. Tongues speakers without interpreters are to keep silent in the church (14:28), and two or three prophets only are to speak one at a time in order (14:29-31) because God is not the author of confusion in all church services. "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all **churches** of the saints."
8. 14:34. Women are not to teach in the church. "Let your women keep silence in the **churches**: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law."
9. 14:35. Women are not even to ask questions in the church, lest they use their questions to start teaching. "And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the **church**."

C. **Revelation chapters 2-3, Exhortations to the Churches.** Seven letters to seven churches constitute a central passage on the obligations for spiritual living in the church. For a detailed examination, go to the appropriate section in <http://wordexplain.com/PDFdocs/Revelationexpa.pdf>

A STUDY OF THE CHURCH

(*ekklēsia*, [1577](#))
A Recapitulation

I. THE DEFINITION OF THE CHURCH

- A. A Secular, Political or Quasi-Political Gathering
- B. The (Local) Church as an Ethnic / National / Geographical Entity Relating to God and / or Christ
- C. The Universal Church as an Entity Existing in Relationship to God or Christ

II. THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH

- A. The Church as Related to Christ
- B. The Church as Having Human Leaders
- C. Communication and the Church
- D. A Local Church as Hosted in Someone's Home
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III. THE FUNCTION AND MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

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- B. The Church as Being Set Apart Exclusively for God or Christ
- C. Spiritual Gifts in the Church
- D. Interrelationships Within the Church and Between Churches
- E. Helpers in the Church
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IV. THE ESTABLISHMENT, GROWTH, AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE CHURCH

- A. The Establishment / Founding of the Church
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V. THE DESTINY OF THE CHURCH

Christ's Presentation of the Church to Himself in Glorious, Sinless Perfection

VI. CENTRAL PASSAGES ON THE CHURCH

- A. Ephesians 5:23-33. Marriage as illustrating Christ and His Church.
- B. 1 Corinthians 14. A treatise on the proper use of tongues and prophecy.
- C. Revelation 2-3. Exhortations to the seven churches.

A Word Study on the Word Church (*ekklēsia*)
Prepared by James T. Bartsch
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Email Contact: jbartsch@wordexplain.com