

Church or Denomination

- ◉ **When someone asks what church you belong to, are they asking what church or what denomination?**
- ◉ **What does “church” mean?**
- ◉ **What does “denomination” mean?**
- ◉ **How does the Bible refer to “church”?**
- ◉ **Does the Bible talk about “denominations”?**
- ◉ **What Are We Members Of?**

Church or Denomination

What does “church” mean?

- » Greek -- “*ekklesia*” literally meaning “to call out”
noun, collective, non-descriptive
 - 1) a gathering of citizens called out from their homes into some public place, an assembly
 - 1a) an assembly of the people convened at the public place of the council for the purpose of deliberating
 - 1b) the assembly of the Israelites
 - 1c) any gathering or throng of men assembled by chance, tumultuously
 - 1d) in a Christian sense Strongs Greek Lexicon

Church or Denomination

What does “denomination” mean?

» de·nom-i-na-tion (dī-nòm´e-nâ¹shen) noun

- 1. A large group of religious congregations united under a common faith and name and organized under a single administrative and legal hierarchy.
- 2. One of a series of kinds, values, or sizes, as in a system of currency or weights: Cash registers have compartments for bills of different denominations. The stamps come in 25¢ and 45¢ denominations. The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language

» One thing about denominations is they don't exist without other denominations. (i.e. money or stamps)

Church or Denomination

- ◉ **How does the Bible refer to “church”?**
 - » **In Septuagint, Greek translation of O.T. :**
 - **Used for Israelites gathering together -- Deut. 9:10**
 - » **In New Testament:**
 - **Used for a group of Christians three ways:**
 - ◉ All saved in Christ, dead and alive -- Hebrews 12:22,23
 - ◉ All Christians living in one area – 1 Corinthians 1:2
 - ◉ An assembly of Christians -- 1 Corinthians 14:27-34
 - **Used for a group of Ephesians -- Acts 19:29-41**

Church or Denomination

Does the Bible talk about “denominations”?

» **Yes! They are called sects, heresies, divisions**

– **a sect or heresy**

◦ 1) a body of men following their own tenets (sect or party)

◦ 2) dissensions arising from diversity of opinions and aims

» **Sect of the Sadducees -- Acts 5:17**

» **Sect of the Pharisees -- Acts 26:5**

» **Sects among Christians always condemned --
1 Corinthians 11:19; Galatians 5:20; 2 Peter 2:1**

» **Divisions among Christians condemned --
1 Corinthians 1:10**

Church or Denomination

◉ What Are We Members Of?

- » Jesus Added Us to His Church -- Acts 2:47
- » The One Body -- Ephesians 4:4
- » Which is His Church -- Colossians 1:18
- » Which is His House -- 1 Timothy 3:15
- » And Therefore Heirs of God -- Galatians 4:7
- » Made Kings and Priests -- Revelation 5:9-10

Church or Denomination

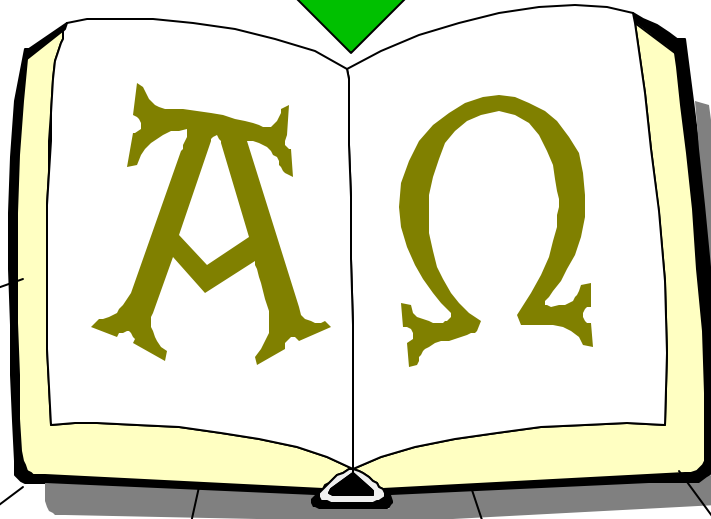
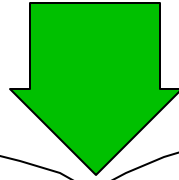
◉ What Are We Members Of? (cont.)

- » Jesus added us to His church (universal)
- » But, We must join a church (local) -- Acts 9:26
 - To literally “glue” together; make two things one
- » What does a local church look like?
 - Elders; Deacons; and Saints -- Phillipians 1:1
 - ◉ Elders, Bishops, or Pastors -- Acts 20:28 cf 20:17
 - ◉ Deacons -- 1 Timothy 3:8
 - ◉ Saints -- 1 Corinthians 1:2

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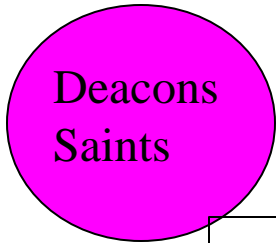
Ephesians 1:22 And He put all [things] under His feet, and gave Him [to be] head over all [things] to the church, (NKJV)

Jesus Christ



Revelation 2:1 "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, ' These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: (NKJV)

Local Elders



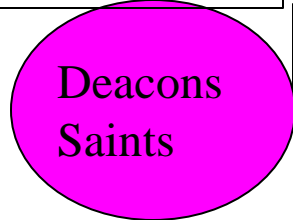
Local Elders



Local Elders



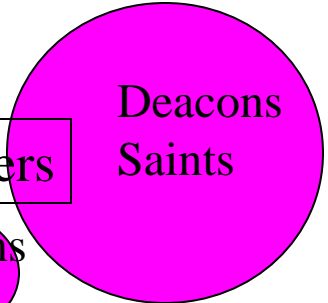
Local Elders



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