

The Church

What is “church”?

The Three “churches” of The Saints

The Work of The Local Church

What is “church”?

- The English word ‘church’ is derived from the Greek adjective *kyrialos* as used in some such phrase as *kyriakon doma* or *kyriake oikia*, meaning ‘the Lord’s house’, *i.e.* a Christian place of worship. (*New Bible Dictionary*)
- ‘Church’ in the NT, however, renders Greek *ekklesia*, which mostly designates a local congregation of Christians and never a building. (*New Bible Dictionary*)
- Although Greek *ekklesia* became a distinctively Christian word, it has both a Greek and an OT history.
- In the Greek world it was used of a public assembly summoned by a herald (*ek*, “out.” and *kalein*, “to call”; cf. Acts 19:32,39f). (ISBE)
- In the LXX, it was used for the Hebrew word *qahal*, which denotes the congregation or people of Israel, especially as gathered before the Lord (cf. Acts 7:38). (ISBE)

The Three “churches” of The Saints

- **The Universal (catholic) Church**
 - Hebrews 12:22-23 *"But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,"*
- **The Local Church**
 - 1 Corinthians 1:2 *"To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, ..."*
- **The Local Church in Church**
 - 1 Corinthians 11:18 *"For first of all, when you come together as a church, ..."*

The Universal Church

- **Jesus Built It**
 - Matthew 16:13-18; Ephesians 2:20
- **He Is The Head Of It**
 - Ephesians 1:22-23
- **It Is His Body**
 - Colossians 1:18
- **He Has Only One**
 - Ephesians 4:4-6
- **His Body Is Not Many Churches But Many People**
 - John 15:1-6; 1 Corinthians 12:27
- **He Adds You To His Church**
 - Acts 2:47

The Local Church

- **They are established by people**
 - Acts 8:4; 11:19-26
- **Each Should Be Overseen By Its Own Elders**
 - Titus 1:5; Acts 14:23; 1 Peter 5:1-3
- **There Are Many Of Them**
 - Gal 1:2; Rom 16:16
- **You Must Join Yourself To It**
 - Acts 9:26-28

The Local Church in Church

- **1 Corinthians 14:26-28** *"How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret. But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God."*

The Work of The Local Church

- **God designed the church, therefore He must have had a purpose for the church. What is it?**
- **Preach to the lost ~ 1 Thessalonians 1:8**
 - Preachers need to be sent ~ Romans 10:14-15
 - They went preaching ~ Acts 8:4-8
- **Teach the saints ~ Ephesians 4:11-16**
 - Both publicly and privately ~ Acts 5:42

The Work of The Local Church cont.

- **Care for one another ~ Acts 2:44-45**
 - **By Equality ~ 2 Corinthians 8:13-14**
- **The work of the church is NOT:**
 - **political**
 - **social**
 - **supporting human institutions**
 - **owning and operating businesses**
 - **This is work left to individuals**