

The Church

The Church is Christ's body, the only organization that He has specifically commissioned to represent His character and purposes in the world. When the Church is faithfully worshipping and proclaiming Jesus Christ, it is the most spiritually powerful organization in the world.

“...on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” –Matthew 16:18

Who is the Church?

- “Ekklesia” – assembly, gathering
Universal (“big C”) and Local (“little c”)

And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. –Colossians 1:18

And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. –Ephesians 1:22-23

- Diverse but unified

There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
–Galatians 3:28

There is one body and one Spirit— just as you were called to one hope when you were called— one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
–Ephesians 4:4-6

What marks a church?

- Orthodox doctrine

You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. –Titus 2:1

- The Authority of Scripture
- The Triune God as Creator and Redeemer
- The Fall and Original Sin
- The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus
- Salvation by Grace through Faith
- The Second Coming of Christ

- Organized Leadership

The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an overseer is entrusted with God’s work, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined.

He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. –Titus 1:5-9

Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. –1 Timothy 3:8-9

- Ordinances (1 Cor 11-12)

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. –Hebrews 10:25

What does the church do?

- Worship

Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. –Colossians 3:16

- Grow

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. –Ephesians 4:11-13

- Multiply

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. –Matthew 28:19-20

Do you know Jesus?

Are you connected to the body?

Are you growing in your faith?

Are you making disciples?