

Lesson 14-18

The Doctrine of the Church

“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Matthew 16:18-20

I. Why is it so important to study the doctrine of the Church?

- A. Because the Church is the _____ that Christ ever purposed to build (Mt. 16:18).
- B. Because the Church was in God’s plan from _____ of the world (Eph. 1:3-5, 9-12; II Tim. 1:9).
- C. Because the Church is _____ through which God’s eternal purpose will be accomplished (Eph. 3:8-11).
- D. Because the Church is the apple of God’s eye and the _____ Christ (Eph.5:25-32).

II. What does the word “church” mean?

- A. Because of the English use of the word “church”, we may have a wrong understanding of the biblical meaning of the word. The church, as spoken of in the Bible, is not:
 - 1. A _____ for Christian worship.
 - 2. A regular religious _____ or public worship.
 - 3. A _____ or sect.
- B. The word “church” in the New Testament comes from the Greek word *ekklesia* which literally means “_____.”
 - 1. In Greek society an *ekklesia* was an assembly of free citizens _____ from their homes or places of business to give consideration to matters of public interest (Acts 19:32, 39, 41).
 - 2. In relation to God’s people, it refers to all those people who have been called out

from the world (I Pet. 2:9), who have separated themselves unto God and who have gathered unto the Lord for _____.

III. What did Jesus teach concerning the Church?

Jesus specifically mentioned the church _____ in His teaching and in each case He referred to a different aspect of the church.

A. In Matthew 16:13-19 Jesus referred to _____ (also called the invisible, mystical or catholic church) that consists of all believers living and dead from all ages who have been called out of the world system and who have separated themselves unto Christ.

1. Jesus implied that the universal church would be:
 - a. Based on _____ of Jesus Christ as the Son of God (vs. 15-17).
 - b. Built by _____ Himself (vs. 18).
 - c. _____ by Christ Himself (vs. 18).
 - d. _____ into one (vs. 18).
 - e. _____ over the powers and authority of hell (vs. 18-19).
 - f. Powerfully _____ God's heavenly kingdom on earth (vs. 19).
 - g. Fully supported and backed up by heaven's _____ (vs. 19).
2. Paul adds to the concept of the universal church in the Book of Ephesians (Eph. 1:22; 3:10; 3:21; 5:25-32).
 - a. The Church is the spiritual _____ and is to be under His headship (Eph. 1:15-22).
 - b. The Church is the _____ to bring forth the eternal purpose of God (Eph. 3:10-11).
 - c. The church is not a _____ institution (Eph. 3:20-21).
3. The development of the universal Church can be outlined in five steps.
 - a. It was _____ in the mind of God from all eternity (Eph. 3:9).

- b. It was _____ for on the cross by Jesus Christ (Acts 20:28).
- c. It was _____ on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-21).
- d. It has been _____ throughout the ages (Acts 8:5-25; 10:1-48; 28:31).
- e. It will _____ at the return of Christ when the bride will be ready to be united with her heavenly husband (Rev. 19:7-8).

B. In Matthew 18:15-20 Jesus referred to _____ (also called the visible church) or a specific body of believers in a given locality.

Read the following passage and see what it implies about the local church.

“Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’ And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector. Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

Jesus implied that the local or visible church would be:

1. Composed of people who are called “_____” (vs. 15).

Implications:

- The local church is a place of _____.
- The local church is meant to be a _____ setting.
- The local church is a place of _____ relationships.
- The local church is to be a place of _____.

2. An assembly where _____ exists between members (vs. 15-17).

Implications:

- The local church is not _____; there will be _____ to work through.
- The local church must be committed to the process of _____.
- The local church is a place where God has provided _____ for conflicts to be resolved.

3. An assembly where _____ occurs (vs. 15-17).

Implications:

- The local church is not a _____ group having no responsibility or accountability toward one another.
 - The local church is a place where we get _____ in each other's lives.
 - The local church is a place where _____ and discipline is administered.
4. An assembly where God has established _____ (vs. 18).

Implications:

- The local church is vested with the _____ of heaven.
 - God _____ the disciplining actions of the local church.
 - To be disciplined by the local church is to be disciplined by _____.
5. A _____ from which you could be expelled (vs. 17).

Implications:

- The local church is a place where you are known to be _____.
 - The local church is a place from which you can be _____.
 - You are either a part of a local church or you are _____.
6. An assembly of fellowship in _____ (vs. 19).

Implications:

- The local church is a place of _____ together.
 - The local church is a place of corporate _____.
 - The local church is a place where there is an _____ for God to act.
7. An assembly where Christ promises _____ (vs. 20).

Implications:

- The local church is a _____ for God by His Spirit.
 - The local church is place of a unique manifestation of God's _____.
8. An assembly that gathers around _____ of Christ (vs. 20).

Implications:

- The local church is dedicated to the _____ of Christ.
 - The local church carries _____ of the name of Christ.
 - The local church is to be a _____ of that name to the world.
9. An assembly that is based on _____ for its success (vs. 19).
- Implications:
- Its _____ is dependent upon it.
 - The _____ is released when it occurs.
 - It is something that must be _____ (Eph. 4:1-3).
10. An assembly whose success is going to be dependent upon a lot of love, patience and _____ (vs. 21ff).

IV. What aspect of the Church is the major focus of the New Testament?

- A. Out of approximately 110 references to the Church of Jesus Christ in the New Testament, clearly _____ of these references refer to the local or the visible church.
- B. As believers, it is vital that we focus on and emphasize what God emphasizes.

V. What are some of the names and titles of the Church?

- A. There are many names and titles associated with the church. Each one of them refers to a different aspect of the church which represents God's manifold (many faceted) wisdom of God (Eph. 3:9-10).
1. The City of the Living God (Heb. 12:22)
 2. The Church of the Firstborn (Heb. 12:23)
 3. The House of the Lord (Heb. 3:6; I Tim. 3:5)
 4. The Church of the Living God (I Tim. 3:5)
 5. The Pillar and Ground of Truth (I Tim. 3:5)
 6. The Israel of God (Gal. 6:16)
 7. Mount Zion (Heb. 12:22)
 8. Heavenly Jerusalem (Heb. 12:22; Gal. 4:26)
 9. God's Husbandry or Field (I Cor. 3:9).
 10. A Golden Lampstand (Rev. 1:20)
- B. Actually there are over _____ names and titles in both the Old and New Testaments that refer directly or indirectly to the Church of Jesus Christ.

VI. What is the relationship of the Church in the Old Testament to the Church in the New Testament?

A. In the Old Testament God had His “called out ones.” Israel was God’s chosen nation who was to be His instrument to touch the nations of the world and bring forth the Messiah (Acts 7:38; Ex. 19:6).

1. Israel was an _____ God’s grace (Deut. 7:6-10).
2. Israel was called _____ (Ex. 3:7-8).
3. Israel experienced a _____ deliverance (Ex. 12).
4. Israel became separated unto God by virtue of _____ in the sea and in the cloud (I Cor. 10:1-4).
5. Israel was to be _____ from the pagan nations (Ex. 11:7; Lev. 20:22-26).

B. In the New Testament God has His “called out ones.” The Church is God’s chosen nation which is His instrument to touch the nations and demonstrate kingdom glories and virtues (I Pet. 2:4-10).

1. We were objects of God’s _____ (Eph. 2:8-9).
2. We were called out of _____ (Eph. 2:1-3).
3. We have experience our personal _____ deliverance (I Cor. 5:7-8).
4. We have been separated unto God by virtue of _____ and Holy Spirit baptism (Acts 2:38-39; Rom. 6-8).
5. We are to be _____ from the world system (John 15:18-19; 17:14-17; II Cor. 6:14-18).

C. There is _____ between the church of the Old Testament and the church of the New Testament.

1. The Old Testament church, which was established by the prophets, serves as _____ for the New Testament church, which was established by the apostles (Eph. 2:19-22).
2. The Old Testament church _____ to Christ while the New Testament church is built upon Christ (I Pet. 2:6-8; I Cor. 3:10-11).
3. The connection is seen in the _____ given to the people of God in both the Old and the New Testaments.

See Table on next page...

Title	O.T. Church	N.T. Church
A Chosen People	Deut. 10:15	I Pet. 2:9
A Holy Nation	Ex. 19:6	I Pet. 2:9
A Priesthood	Ex. 19:6	I Pet. 2:9
The People of God	Ps. 100:3	II Cor. 6:16
Israel	Is. 44:6	Gal. 6:16
The Flock of God	Jer. 23:3	I Pet. 5:2
A Light	Is. 60:1, 3	Mt. 5:14
God's Witness	Is. 43:10	Acts 1:8

4. The _____ hidden for ages but preached by the apostles was that the Jew and the Gentile were made one (Eph. 2:14; 3:5-6), in one body, one building, built upon the foundation laid by the Old Testament prophets and the New Testament apostles, Christ being the Chief Cornerstone (Eph. 2:20-22).

VII. What does the book of Ephesians reveal to us about the Church?

The Book of Ephesians has been titled “The Book of _____” because of the rich revelation concerning the church that is found in it. Five beautiful pictures of the church are found in Ephesians, each one filling out and adding to our overall understanding of and appreciation for the church.

A. The Church as the _____ or House of God (Eph. 2:19-22).

1. A temple is to be a _____ for God (Eph. 2:22).
2. A temple is _____ by someone (Heb. 3:1-6).
3. A temple is composed of _____ (I Pet. 2:4).
4. A temple is a place where _____ function (I Pet. 2:4).
5. A temple is a place of _____ (I Pet. 2:4).

B. The Church as the _____ of God (Eph. 3:14-15).

1. In the family we have a heavenly _____ (Gal. 4:4-7).
2. In the family we have a firstborn and elder _____ (Heb. 2:14-17).
3. In the family we have other _____ (I Pet. 1:22).
4. In the family we are all partakers of the _____ (Eph. 2:13).
5. In the family we all share the _____ (Rev. 22:4).
6. In the family we share a _____ (I Pet. 1:3-4).

C. The Church as the _____ of Christ (Eph. 4:11-16).

1. Each member of the body has a unique _____ (Rom. 12:4-5).
2. Each member of the body is inter-related to _____ (I Cor. 12:17).

3. Each member of the body submits to the _____ (Eph. 1:22-27).
 4. Each member of the body is _____ and necessary (I Cor. 12:19-26).
- D. The Church as the _____ of Christ (Eph. 5:25-32).
1. As the bride we are espoused to _____ (II Cor. 11:2).
 2. As the bride we must make ourselves ready for _____ (Rev. 19:7-8).
 3. As the bride we must enter into _____ relationship with Christ (I Cor. 6:16-17).
 4. As the bride we must remain _____ and keep ourselves pure (II Cor. 11:2).
 5. As the bride we will be part of a great _____ celebration (Rev. 19:6-10).
- B. The Church as the _____ of God (Eph. 6:10-20).
1. In the army we have a _____ and a chief leader (Heb. 2:10).
 2. In the army we are enlisted as good _____ (II Tim. 2:3-4).
 3. In the army we are involved in spiritual _____ (Eph. 6:12).
 4. In the army the _____ is provided by God (Eph. 6:13-18).
 5. In the army our _____ are not carnal but mighty (II Cor. 10:3-5).
 6. In the army of God we will be _____ and be instrumental in destroying the gates of hell (Mt. 16:18).

VIII. What does the Bible teach about the government of the local church?

- A. The local church should function as an _____ body.
1. The word “autonomous” means “independent, _____.” It comes from two Latin words which literally mean “self” (*auto*) and “law” (*onomos*).
 2. Our definition of autonomy as it relates to the local church is:

“Self-governing, self-supporting and self-propagating”
 3. A local church that is self-governing looks to no _____ authority, no special group functioning outside or above itself to effect its decisions. The local church is the final court of appeal:
 - a. For _____ between believers (Mt. 18:15-17).
 - b. For questions of _____ (Acts 15).
 - c. For _____ of moral conduct (I Cor. 5:1-5).
- B. The New Testament presents four basic facts concerning church government.

1. Bible Fact #1 – God has established _____ in His House.
 - a. With no government there will be a _____ (I Cor. 14:40; Col. 2:5).
 - b. There are those who _____ in the House of God (Heb. 13: 7, 17, 24; Rom. 12:8).
2. Bible Fact #2 – God has _____ and pattern for government in His House.

When building God’s house we have some choices. Our pattern can come from various sources. It can come from:

- a. The _____ System
- b. Religious _____
- c. The Mind of _____ Man
- d. God

Our pattern must come from God.

- God is a God of order and has a pattern and plan for _____ that He does (Gen. 1).
- God is very _____ and exact about how He wants things done (Leviticus).
- God provided the pattern for _____ that He ever commanded to be built (Gen. 6:1-6; Ex. 25:9, 40; I Chr. 28:11-19).
- The glory of God can only _____ that which is according to the pattern (Ex. 40:33-34).
- The pattern can not be _____ if we are to experience the full blessing of God (Gen. 4:1-3).
- The plan of God is _____ and is never out of date.

3. Bible Facts #3 – God identifies the rulers in His House as _____ (I Tim. 3:5; 5:17). There are many forms of government that God could have chosen.

- a. _____ or “One Man Rule”
- b. _____ or “Rule by the People”
- c. _____ or “External Control”
- d. _____ or “Rule by an Elected Board”
- e. _____ Plurality of Elders

God did not choose any of these forms for His House.

- f. Elders with a _____ (or Pastor). This is clearly God’s choice. This has two parts:
 - i. A Plurality of Elders (Acts 14:23; 20:17; I Tim. 5:17; James 5:14).
 - ii. One Senior or Chief Elder (Acts 12:17; 15:4-7, 12, 13, 22; 21:15-18; Phil. 4:1-3).
 - iii. This has always been God’s form of government (See Chart below).
 - In the Godhead (I Jn. 5:7; I Cor. 11:3)
 - In the Family (Gen. 2:24; I Cor. 11:3)
 - In Israel (Num. 11:16-17; 27:16-17)

- In the Synagogue (Acts 13:15; 18:8,17)
- In the Church (Tit. 1:5; Acts 21:18)

	Equality	Headship
The Godhead	Three Persons	Father
The Family	Two Parents	Husband
Israel	70 Elders	Moses
The Synagogue	Elders/Rulers	Chief Ruler
The Church	Elders	Chief Elder

4. Bible Fact #4 – God determines the _____ that are to be rulers in His House (I Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9).
- They must be people with _____. That is, they have allowed the work of sanctification to take place in their lives and they manifest the fruit of the Spirit.
 - They must be people of _____. That is, they have a vision to see God’s purposes established and they have the maturity to make sacrifices in the present to see those purposes come to pass.
 - They must be people with their _____. That is, they have demonstrated their ability to rule and provide pastoral covering for the church by virtue of the fact that they have established the Kingdom of God in their own homes.
 - They must be people with the _____ for this ministry. That is, they are not only good people but they have a gift of leadership or the “charisma” needed to enable them to teach and to exhort and convince those who oppose the Gospel (Heb. 13:7).

These are virtually the same qualifications that were laid out in the Old Testament for the elders who served under Moses. God’s leaders were to be “able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness” (Ex. 18:21).

IX. What is the ministry and mission of the Church?

The church has a four-fold ministry:

- A. The church has a ministry to _____. The chief ministry of the church is

- that of worshipping and glorifying God (I Cor. 10:31).
- B. The church has a ministry to _____. The members of the church have a responsibility to do everything they can to build or edify the church (Eph. 4:9-16; I Cor. 14:12).
 - C. The church has a ministry to _____ (Mt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-20; II Cor. 5:18-19). The church is to take the gospel to the ends of the earth and teach men and women the ways of God.
 - D. The church has a ministry in connection with principalities and powers (Eph. 1:20-23; I Cor. 15:24-26). The church is going to be used by God to share in Christ's victory and to bring about the downfall and utter demise of Satan and his evil hosts (Rom. 16:20).

Note: For a more exhaustive study of the doctrine of the church refer to the course titled Local Church.