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What is the Church?

Lesson 10: Speaking of God

http://www.clearcreekchapel.org/Ministries/ABE/Education_ABE.htm#Current_Series_Lessons

What is the church?

The church is the community of all true believers for all time (Eph. 5:25).

The church refers to all the people Christ died to redeem.

The Invisible Yet Visible Church

The true church, in its spiritual reality as the fellowship of all genuine believers, is invisible (2 Tim. 2:19).

The “invisible church” is the church as God sees it.

The “visible church” is the church as Christians on earth see it.

The visible church will always contain genuine believers as well as others who do not truly believe and have made false professions of faith.

Other Descriptions of the Church

The word “church” can describe: a small house church (Rom. 16:5; 1 Cor. 16:19), the church in an entire city (1 Cor. 1:2; 2 Cor. 1:1; 1 Thess. 1:1), the church in an entire region (Acts 9:3 1), and the church throughout the entire world (Eph. 5:25; 1 Cor. 12:28).

The church is described as a family (1 Tim. 5:1-2).

The church is the bride of Christ (Eph. 5:32; 2 Cor. 11:2).



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The church is the body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23, 4:15-16; Col. 2:19).

The church is a new temple (Eph. 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:4-8; 1 Cor. 3:10-17).

The church is a priesthood (1 Peter 2:5).

The church is a nation (1 Peter 2:5), a new Israel (Gal. 6:16).

What Makes a Church a Church?

Correct preaching from the Bible is a mark of the church.

Correct administration of the ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Table, is a mark of the church.

Consistent practice of church discipline is a mark of the church.

What Is the Church Supposed to Do?

The church is supposed to minister to God, to its members, and to the world (Col. 3:16).

Ministry to God is done through worshiping him (Eph. 1:12).

The church's ministry to its members is done through nurturing and building them up so that the church can "present everyone mature in Christ" (Col. 1:28).

The church's ministry to the world is done through preaching the gospel to all people in word and in deed (Matt. 28:19).