

THE TRUE CHURCH

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shofar
christian church

What is the true church and its purpose?

A Christian is “one who repents, exercises faith in Jesus for salvation, and confesses the lordship of Christ through testimony and by living according to His example and teaching”.

Definitions

The local church - in one geographic locality, be that a small city, a suburb, a block or a building

The universal church - all disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ both in heaven and on earth, the family of God extending through time

Definitions

The visible church - the church as Christians on earth see it

The invisible church - the church as God in heaven sees it (“The Lord knows those who are his,” 2 Tim. 2:19)

Scripture Reading

Eph 2 (ESV): ¹¹Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹²remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

Scripture Reading

Eph 2 (ESV): ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,

Scripture Reading

Eph 2 (ESV): ¹⁶and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens

Scripture Reading

Eph 2 (ESV): with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Images of the church

The building of Christ – Eph 2: ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Images of the church

The family of God – Eph 2: ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God

Scripture Reading

Eph 5 (ESV): ²²Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Scripture Reading

Eph 5 (ESV): ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Scripture Reading

Eph 5 (ESV): ²⁸In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰because we are members of his body.

Images of the church

The body of Christ – Eph 5: 23 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.

Images of the church

The bride of Christ – Eph 5:

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Characteristics of the true church

How to identify a true (not perfect) church:

1. It teaches sound biblical doctrine
2. Its members bear good fruit
 - a. Do they love Jesus?
 - b. Do they love one another?
3. The sacraments are used biblically
4. Worship God in Spirit and truth
5. Prayer is important
6. Missions are important

Scripture Reading

Eph 5 (ESV): ¹⁵Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,

Scripture Reading

Eph 5 (ESV): ¹⁹addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

The purpose of the church

1. To minister to God

Scripture Reading

Eph 4 (ESV): ¹¹And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

Scripture Reading

Eph 4 (ESV): ¹⁴so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

Scripture Reading

Eph 4 (ESV): ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

The purpose of the church

- 1. To minister to God**
- 2. To minister to believers**
- 3. To minister to the world**

So what?

What is the bottom line?

- **If we understand the purpose of the church, we know where we can contribute**

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COMMUNION

REMEMBER HIS
SACRIFICE

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MINISTRY



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COME AND ENJOY A COFFEE WITH US



Teachers –
We'll meet you in front ☺

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