

**Title:** The Formation and Functioning of the Church  
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## The Formation and Functioning of the Church - Hennie Swart

### Inleiding

The devil can't hurt the Lord directly, that's why he attacks the church.  
One of his favourite ways of attacking the church is by redefining it.

#### Acts 2:37-41

<sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"<sup>38</sup> And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."<sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."<sup>40</sup> And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation."<sup>41</sup> So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls

#### Acts 2:42-47

<sup>42</sup>And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.<sup>43</sup> And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.<sup>44</sup> And all who believed were together and had all things in common.<sup>45</sup> And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.<sup>46</sup> And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,<sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

## Die vorming van die kerk

The church, the *ekklesia*, is the company of:

- the repentant.
- the believers.
- the baptized.
- the saved-out-ones.
- the called-out-ones.
- the new temple.
- the New Israel.
- the new exodus.

### ‘the apostles’ teaching’

- Teaching from the Word (OT + Jesus tradition + gospel)
- ‘the whole counsel of God’ (**Hand 20:27-28**)
- Most pastors preach only 2% of the Bible.
- The whole Bible, the whole ministry.
- The apostles’ interpretation, not that of Moses

### ‘the fellowship’

- All who believed were together...
- In the temple and homes (**Hand 2:46, 5:42, 20:20**)
- More than just fellowship - ministry:
  1. Supernatural (**2:43**) and natural (**2:44-45**) ministry to each other.
  2. Praise and worship to God (**2:47**)
  3. Evangelism to unbelievers (**2:47**)

## **‘the breaking of bread’**

- Celebration of Passover (**Luk 22:7-20**)
- The New Covenant in His blood.
- Passover lamb also sacrificed in the temple and homes.
- They celebrate their participation in the new exodus.

## **‘the prayers’**

- A house of prayer for the nations (**Luk 19:46**)
- They start and continue in prayer (**1:14**)
- Prayer, Spirit, and Word (**4:31**)
- The focus of the apostles (**6:4**)

## **Salvation**

- ‘and the **Lord** added to their number daily...’ (**2:47**)
- ‘I will build my church...’ (**Matt 16:18**)
- ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?’ (**9:4-5**)

## **You are part of a church if...**

- You are part of a body where you can receive the whole counsel of God, i.e. not just a specialist ministry.
- You submit to leaders who can discipline you and even revoke your membership.
- You can fellowship with imperfect Christians, some of who irritate you and challenge you to grow.