

## What is the Church?

Strong's # 1577 - 76 times in the New Testament

- a calling out
- A Christian community of members on earth or saints in heaven or both
- Sabbath Day? - keep it holy - rest, do no work

What is the church?

Heb 10:23-25

1. Encouraging one another (25)
2. Stimulate one another to love and good deeds (24)
3. Reminding each other that God is faithful (23)

It is not a building!

Individuals are the church - members of the body of Christ

Acts 17:10

1. Eagerly receive the Scripture
2. Examining the Scriptures to see if what is said is true

Acts 16:13

1. Met together on the riverbank to pray and be taught

I John 4:1

1. Test the spirits to see if they are from God
  - a. Test/try - prove, discern, to prove whether something is worthy to be received or not.

Matthew 3:1-6

Preparation for Jesus

Preaching in the wilderness by the river

Wore camel's hair and leather belt

The church is us - we are the body of the Christ

When to meet

Acts 2:1-6

Acts 4:31

They were just meeting together - whenever

They met together daily sometimes

They lived in fear and some were needy - they met to encourage one another

Sabbath and What It Is

1. Sunday meetings
  - a. Meeting has become a fashion place
  - b. Why the time?
    - i. Farmers - time

- ii. Sleep in
- c. Traditions - what makes a church service
  - i. Dedication - dedicating children
    - 1. When -
    - 2. Purpose - that church help in upbringing (?)
      - a. Older women teaching younger women
    - 3. Biblical - YES - Hannah, all children
  - ii. Wedding - Gen 24:61
  - iii. Funerals
    - 1. Cremation - mindset
      - a. Torture
      - b. No body to rise to meet the spirit
- d. Ezra 7:10 - Study the law
  - i. Practice it
  - ii. Teach it
  - iii. Acts 17:11 - receive the word in eagerness and examine to see if they were so
  - iv. II Timothy 2:15 - study the word so we can handle it accurately
  - v. I Peter 4:11 - speak the utterances of God
  - vi. I Peter 4:14 - to know that you are going to be persecuted - be prepared - life is not always going to go our way
    - 1. How to be prepared
      - a. Know trouble is coming (II Tim 3:12)
      - b. Know why it is coming
        - i. Satan
        - ii. God is strengthening
        - iii. Our sin
        - iv. Other's sin
      - c. It is a privilege to suffer for God (Phil 1:29-30)
      - d. There is a purpose
- e. Foot Washing
  - i. Washing
    - 1. Luke 7:38-44 - #1026 - brecho - to moisten, send rain, shower
      - a. Seems to be a custom - offer water for cleansing and oil for feet
      - b. Woman - did this out of a thankful, grateful heart - she recognized who Jesus was - showing respect
    - 2. Mark 7:3 - #909 - baptismos - baptism, washing
      - a. Observing traditions
      - b. identification
    - 3. John 13:1-20 - #3538 - nipto - to cleanse hand, feet, or face
      - a. Jesus was washing the disciples' feet
      - b. Need to allow Jesus to wash them - or they will have no part of Him
      - c. Did it as an example - that we should wash one another's feet

- d. We are servants of one another (Mt 20:26-28, Mt 23:11-12, Mk 10:43-45)
- e. Cultural, hospitality, Teaching - service to each other
- f. Prayer - all night
- g. Sabbath
  - i. Jewish - Saturday
  - ii. God left us an example worked (created) six days and rested 7th (Gen 2:1-4)
  - iii. Constantine in 300 AD - changed the meeting day to Sunday - emperor of Roman
  - iv. Sabbaths were more than just the last day of the week
  - v. Meeting - any day of the week, any place - people are the church
  - vi. Resting - no work
    - 1. Working? - different for everyone
    - 2. Sabbath - #4521 - Sabbaton - day of weekly repose from secular avocations
    - 3. Mark 2:27 - Jesus said - The Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath
    - 4. What is being taught? - the men were hungry so the men picked the grain and ate - need to do what is necessary for life - purpose is to rest - heal, to restore, de-stress
    - 5. Principle - rest one day a week - our bodies need it and God will bless it
  - vii. Time to think about God - getting our lives back on track - Rom 12:1-2 - renewing our minds by reading and studying God's Word
- h. Tithing
  - i. Synonym - offering, giving, gifts, tithe
    - 1. It is a gift, a present, donation, bestow, sacrifice, offering, a tenth
    - 2. Tithe
      - a. a tenth
      - b. What to give
        - i. Time-labor
        - ii. First fruits - harvest, animals
          - 1. Give to God our first of everything in faith and trust that God will provide all that I need
          - 2. Lesson - faith
      - iii. Luke 18:9-12
    - c. Who gives
      - i. All believers
      - ii. Heb 7:9 - those who receive tithes - pays tithes
- 3. Is it a sin not to tithe?
  - a. Matt 6:1-4
    - i. Give in secret
    - ii. Not to be guilted into giving

- b. I Cor 16:1-2
  - i. Put money aside as you prosper so that the gift is ready
- c. II Cor 8:11-12
- d. II Cor 9:6-7
  - i. Give as you have purposed in your heart
  - ii. Don't give grudgingly
  - iii. God loves a cheerful giver
- e. Eph 4:28
  - i. We work for the sole purpose for being able to give to others
- f. Gal 6:6
  - i. Share with those who teach you
- 4. Give to who?
  - a. Those in need
  - b. Those who teach us
  - c. Support God's work
- 5. I Tim 5:18 - don't muzzle an ox while it is working - someone who is working needs to be able to provide for his family
- 6. I Tim 5:17 - elders that rule well are worthy of double honor - especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching
- i. Anointing with oil
  - i. Hebrew - 4886 (I Chron 11:3) - mashach - to rub with oil, to consecrate (to set aside for a divine purpose), to paint - David anointed king - known by his actions and Samuel's words from the Lord
  - ii. Greek - 5548 (He 1:9) - chrio - to smear or rub with oil, to consecrate to an office or religious service
    - 1. II Cor 1:21 - believers are anointed by God with Jesus' blood
    - 2. I John 2:27 - 5545 - chrisma - endowment of the Holy Spirit - God's anointing - the Holy Spirit - unction (another word for anointing)
  - iii. Lesson - to set aside for a specific purpose (sanctified - to be set apart for God) - these are proven people - proven to be faithful in their faith
  - iv. James 5:14 - anointing the sick with oil - part of their culture was to use oil medicinally
- j. Popularity of Supernatural
  - i. Bible commands to stay clear of the spiritists, mediums, witches, divination
  - ii. Are to be studying astronomy - to let God's creation teach us about His greatness
- k. Teaching
  - i. Parents need to teach their children
  - ii. Television/film - is not a good teacher
  - iii. Youth group - putting many kids together with little supervision - leads to improper talk and conduct
  - iv. Dt 6:1-9

1. Teaching as you sit in your house, driving around, before lying down, getting up in the morning - this should be our daily source of conversation
  2. Constantly teaching God's Word
- v. Proverbs 1:1-6 - read a Proverb a day
- vi. Prov 13:20 - don't walk around with the companion of fools
1. Prov 1-4 - talks about wisdom
  2. Prov 5 - blessings of being with one woman/man
  3. Prov 6, 17 - borrowing money
    - a. Luke 6:34-35 - lend with the knowledge that you might not get it back
      - i. Eph 4:38 - let him steal, steal no longer but work so that you can help others
  4. Prov 14 - man's ideas bring death
  5. Prov 15 - gentle word
  6. Prov 22-23 - raising children
  7. Prov 24 - who is your enemy
  8. Prov 26-30 - fools
  9. Prov 31 - proverbial woman - attributes
- I. Baptism - only found in the New Testament
- i. Greek words
    1. 911 - bapto - to whelm (to engulf, submerge, bury), cover wholly with a fluid (to moisten a part of one's person), to stain as with a dye, dip
    2. 907 - baptizo - fully wet, ablution (the act of washing one's self)
    3. 908 - baptisma -
    4. 909 - baptismos -
    5. 910 - baptistes - noun
  - ii. In the Bible
    1. Acts 8:9-40 - believed, went down into the water and was baptized
      - a. Heard the message of Jesus
      - b. Believed with all your heart
      - c. Repentance - Confession of sins
      - d. Confession of Jesus as Son of God
      - e. Baptized - down in the water
        - i. 907 - baptizo - act of washing oneself from sin
    2. Matthew 3:1-6 - baptizing in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins
    3. Romans 6:1-11 - buried (through baptism with Christ)
      - a. Complete burial
      - b. Old self gone - new self coming
      - c. Complete change
      - d. Represents identification with Christ - dyed a different color - old man gone (drowned), new man takes place
    4. Who is baptized?

- a. Heard the message
  - b. Who believes
  - c. Who confesses Christ
  - d. Excludes infants - infant baptism not Biblical
5. Is it necessary?
- a. John 3:16 - believe and you have eternal life
  - b. John 6:47 - believing has eternal life
  - c. Why be baptized - show others the change that has taken place in their hearts
  - d. Some incorrect beliefs
    - i. you are not baptized you can't go to heaven
    - ii. Belief plus other things (baptism, last rites, church attendance, going to priest, confession, indulgences)
6. How to be baptized? - complete change, complete burial, complete immersion (not sprinkled)
7. Who does it? - men of God
8. When to be baptized? - when there is understanding and confession
9. Where to be baptized? - lake, pool, river, any place with water
- m. Communion