

The Church  
Lesson #17  
pg. 1



Word of His Grace  
Christian Ministry

Sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ through the exposition of God's Holy Word, the Bible.

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The Church  
Lesson #17  
pg. 2



A ROYAL  
PRIESTHOOD

The word “*church*” comes from the Greek word ‘*ekklesia*’, which is defined as “*an assembly*” or “*called-out ones*.” The Christian Church comprises all professing, born again believers in Jesus Christ. The Church is not a building, an institution, or any single denomination. All regenerate believers worldwide make up the body of Christ who have been called out of the world.

### What is the Christian Church?

“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar *people*; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into *his* marvellous light” (1 Peter 2:9).

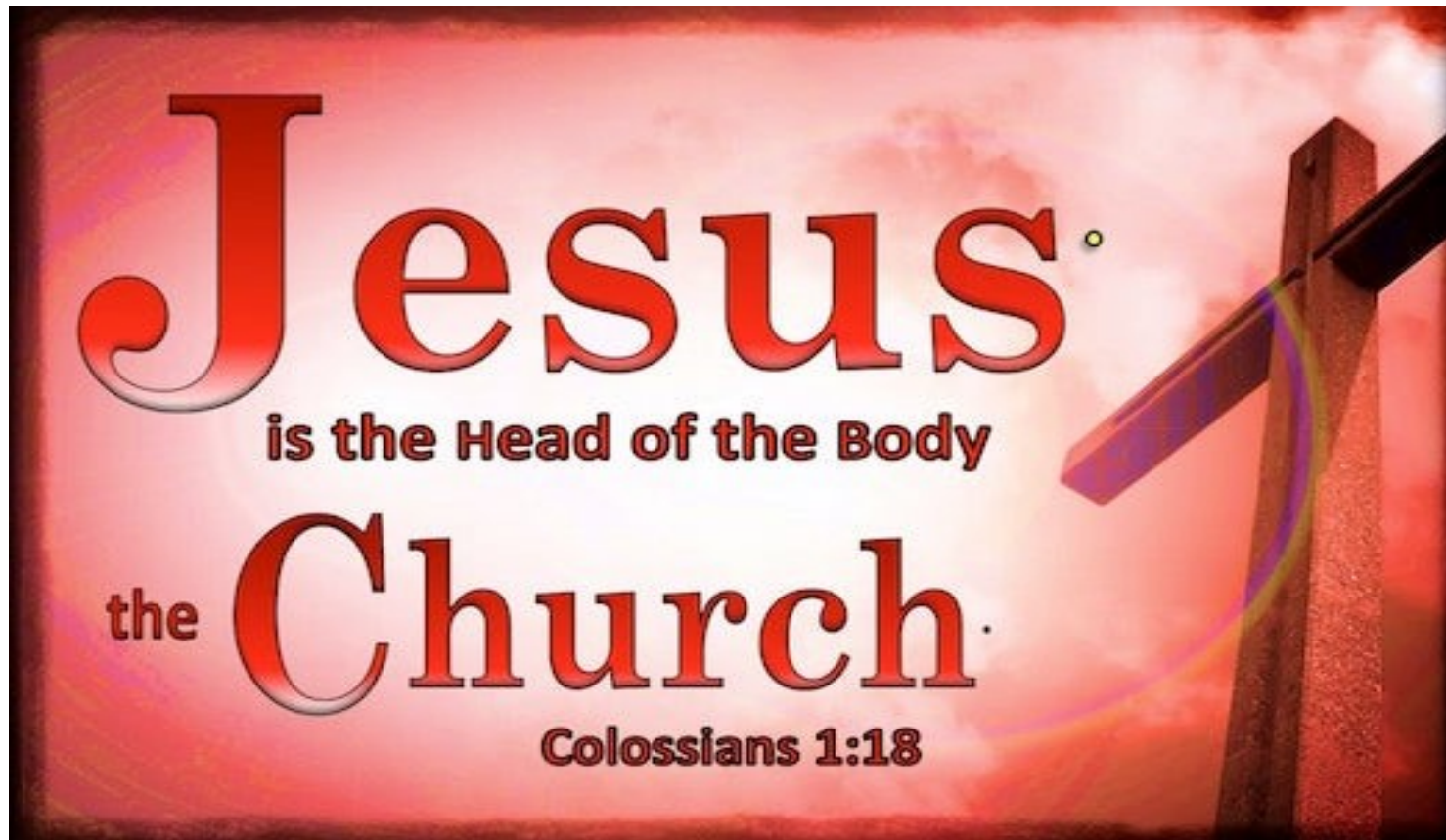
“Who hath saved us, and *called* us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to *his* own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began” (2 Timothy 1:9). See also (Hebrews 12:23).

“For by one *Spirit* are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been *all* made to drink into one Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:13).

### What is the Church’s primary purpose?

“God ye therefore, and *teach* all nations, baptizing

The Church  
Lesson #17  
pg. 3



them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: *Teaching* them to observe all things whatsoever *I* have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (*Matthew 28:19-20*).

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be *witnesses* unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (*Acts 1:8*).

### What is the central message of the Church’s witness?

“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that *Christ died* for our *sins* according to the *scriptures*” (*1 Corinthians 15:3*).

“In *whom* we have redemption through his blood, the *forgiveness* of sins, according to the riches of his grace” (*Ephesians 1:7*).

### Who is the head of the Church?

“For the husband is the head of the wife, even as *Christ* is the head of the *church*: and *he* is the saviour of the body” (*Ephesians 5:23*).

“And *he* is the *head* of the body, *the church*: who is the

# The Church

Lesson #17

pg. 4

## THE CHURCH more than a building



beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the *preeminence*” (Colossians 1:18).

“Now therefore *ye* are no more strangers and foreigners, but *fellowcitizens* with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, *Jesus Christ* himself being the chief corner stone” (Ephesians 2:19-20).

### How is the Christian Church structured?

“And *God* hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues” (1 Corinthians 12:28).

“Then pleased it the *apostles* and *elders*, with the whole *church*, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren” (Acts 15:22).

**NOTE:** The leaders of the church are comprised of elders who were also known as overseers and bishops. *The New Testament* does not give a definitive or detailed description of the structure of church government.

The Church  
Lesson #17  
pg. 5

Christ's Representative  
the

HOLY SPIRIT

In His absence, whom did Christ name as His representative?

“But the Comforter, which is the *Holy Ghost*, whom the Father will send in my name, *he* shall *teach* you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever *I* have said unto you” (John 14:26).

“But Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise *authority* upon them. But so shall it not be *among* you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your *minister*” (Mark 10:42-43).

What is the nature of the Church's authority?

“Verily I say unto you, *Whatsoever* ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say unto you, That if *two* of you shall *agree* on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 18:18-19).

“Preach the *word*; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and *doctrine*” (2 Timothy 4:2).

**NOTE:** The church's authority as found in the New Testament solely rested upon the teachings of Jesus

The Church  
Lesson #17  
pg. 6



Gifts of the Holy Spirit

and the collective witness of the apostles.

“And they continued stedfastly in the *apostles’ doctrine* and fellowship, and in breaking of bread and in prayers” (*Acts 2:42*).

“That ye may be mindful of the *words* which were spoken before by the *holy prophets*, and the commandment of the *apostles* of the Lord and Saviour” (*2 Peter 3:2*).

### What are the gifts given to the Church?

““Now there are diversities of *gifts*, but the same *Spirit*” (*1 Corinthians 12:4*).

“For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same *Spirit*; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all *these* worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as *he* will. For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is *Christ*” (*1 Corinthians 12:8-12*).

The Church  
Lesson #17  
pg. 7

God's Word  
our Final  
Authority



Does the Church have authority to add to or take away from the Scriptures?

“Ye shall not *add* unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye *diminish* ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you” (*Deuteronomy 4:2*).

“Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a *liar*” (*Proverbs 30:6*).

“For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall *add* unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall *take away* from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book” (*Revelation 22:18-19*). See also (*Matthew 24:24; Galatians 1:6-9; 1 John 4:1*).

With so many churches today, how does one choose which one to fellowship with?

“*Study* to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the *word of truth*” (*2 Timothy 2:15*).

The Church  
Lesson #17  
pg. 8

Keep Your Lamps  
Trimmed & Burning



“If any man will do his will, he shall know of the *doctrine*, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself” (John 7:17).

“And now, brethren, I commend you to *God*, and to the *word* of his grace, which is able to *build* you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified” (Acts 20:32).

“But the *wise* took *oil* in their vessels with their *lamps*” (Matthew 25:4).

**NOTE:** A healthy, Spirit led church will be Christ centered, meaning its central message will be the good news of Jesus Christ. It will preach the gospel; that is, that salvation is only found through the atoning death and imputed righteousness of Christ by faith. It will in short, adhere to the teachings of Christ and His apostles as found in the Holy Scriptures.

How long will the Church remain in the world?

“And *this gospel* of the kingdom shall be preached in all the *world* for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come” (Matthew 24:14).

“And now, little children, *abide in him*; that, when *he* shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at *his coming*” (1 John 2:28).