



- You adhere to their rules

DID CHRIST CREATE DENOMINATIONS? OR ARE THEY FROM MAN?

IF WE KNOW THAT IT'S NOT A DENOMINATION, A BUSINESS, OR A CLUB THEN WHAT IS IT?

AS WE GO THROUGH THIS LESSON, ASK YOURSELF

**“IS CHURCH A BUILDING OR A BODY?”**

Amplified 138 results for Church

It is referenced in 20 of the 27 Books of the New Testament

ESV 113 times

NLT 152 times

NKJV 120 times

NASB 112 times

SO, WHERE DO WE START?

### **MATTHEW 16:18**

And I say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build **My church**; and the gates of Hades (death) will not overpower it [by preventing the resurrection of the Christ].

### **1577. ekklesia**

properly, **people called out from the world and to God**, the *outcome* being **the Church** (the mystical *body of Christ*) - i.e. **the universal (total) body of believers whom God calls out from the world and into His eternal kingdom.**









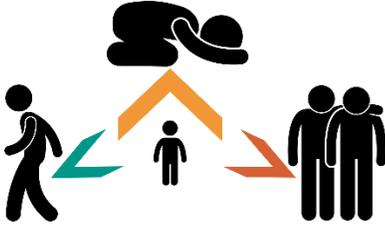
perpetually—regardless of circumstance, and on every occasion], even to the end of the age.”

**MATTHEW 28**

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### IT STARTS WITH YOU

LEARNING TO LOVE GOD  
LEARNING TO LOVE OTHERS  
& LEARNING HOW TO MAKE DISCIPLES



IT IS IN THEB *Transparent Fellowship*  
THAT YOU START TO LEARN HOW TO LOVE  
GOD, LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR & TO MAKE  
DISCIPLES

### HEBREWS 10:24-25

<sup>24</sup> and let us consider [thoughtfully] how we may encourage one another to love and to do good deeds, not forsaking our meeting together [as believers for worship and instruction], as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more [faithfully] as you see the day [of Christ’s return] approaching.





[1 Cor 1:11-12, 1 Cor 11:17-22, Galatians 3:1-5]

## AND THE TOUGH STUFF WAS THAT THEY...

### HAD TO EXERCISE DISCIPLINE

[Matthew 18:15-17, 1 Cor 5:1-5, 2 Thess 3:11-15, Titus 3:10-11]

### EXPERIENCED PERSECUTION

[Acts 8:1-3, Acts 17:5-9, 1 Thess 2:14-15]

## HOW DO YOU "BE" THE CHURCH? HOW DO YOU LIVE THIS LIFE OUT?

## IT COMES DOWN TO BIBLICALLY UNDERSTANDING WHAT FELLOWSHIP IS & WHAT TRUE GROWTH IS & THEN WANTING IT

### 2842. Koinónia [FELLOWSHIP]

spiritual fellowship, a fellowship in the spirit contact, fellowship, intimacy:  
used of the intimate bond of fellowship which unites Christians: absolutely of the fellowship of Christians with God and Christ, consists in the fact that Christians are partakers in common of the same mind as God and Christ, and of the blessings arising therefrom

## IT'S ABOUT FIRST HAVING FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD THE HOLY & VICTORIOUS TRINITY

### With the Father & with His Son

#### 1 John 1:3

what we have seen and heard we also proclaim to you, so that you too may have fellowship [as partners] with us. And indeed our fellowship

[which is a distinguishing mark of born-again believers] is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

## It's About Remaining in Christ

John 15:3-4

You are already clean because of the word which I have given you [the teachings which I have discussed with you]. <sup>4</sup> Remain in Me, and I [will remain] in you. Just as no branch can bear fruit by itself without remaining in the vine, neither can you [bear fruit, producing evidence of your faith] unless you remain in Me.

## Being Called to Fellowship with Jesus

1 Corinthians 1:9

God is faithful [He is reliable, trustworthy and ever true to His promise—He can be depended on], and through Him you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

## He said I will send...

John 16:7

But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengthener, Standby) will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him (the Holy Spirit) to you [to be in close fellowship with you].

## That the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all

2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.





**Encourage one another**

1 Thessalonians 5:11, Hebrews 10:25

**Build up one another**

1 Thessalonians 5:11

**Live in peace with one another**

1 Thessalonians 5:13

**Spur one another to good works**

Hebrews 10:24

**Confess our sins to each other**

James 5:16

**Pray for one another**

James 5:16

**Be hospitable to one another**

1 Peter 4:9

**IF THIS IS ABOUT BEING THE CHURCH...**

THEN THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION WE SHOULD BE ASKING IS THIS...

**HOW DO YOU DEVELOP SUCH A FELLOWSHIP?**

**BY DESIRING IT**

**PSALM 63:1**

O God, You are my God; with deepest longing I will seek You; My soul [my life, my very self] thirsts for You, my flesh longs *and* sighs for You, In a dry and weary land where there is no water.

**BY TRULY BELIEVING IN JESUS**

**1 JOHN 1:2-3**

and the Life [an aspect of His being] was manifested, and we have seen [it as eyewitnesses] and testify and declare to you [the Life], the eternal Life who was [already existing] with the Father and was [actually] made visible to us [His

Lined writing area consisting of 20 horizontal lines.







“And do not touch what is unclean;  
And I will graciously receive you *and* welcome you  
[with favor],  
<sup>18</sup> And I will be a Father to you,  
And you will be My sons and daughters,”  
Says the Lord Almighty.

## BY PARTICIPATING IN THE LORD’S SUPPER

### 1 CORINTHIANS 10:16

Is the cup of blessing which we bless [at the Lord’s  
Supper] not a sharing in the blood of Christ?  
[Indeed it is.] Is the bread which we break not a  
sharing in the body of Christ? [Indeed it is.]

### 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord Himself that  
[instruction] which I passed on to you, that the  
Lord Jesus on the night in which He was betrayed  
took bread; <sup>24</sup> and when He had given thanks, He  
broke it and said, “This is (represents) My body,  
which is [offered as a sacrifice] for you. Do this  
in [affectionate] remembrance of Me.” <sup>25</sup> In the  
same way, after supper *He took* the cup,  
saying, “This cup is the new covenant [ratified and  
established] in My blood; do this, as often as you  
drink it, in [affectionate] remembrance of  
Me.” <sup>26</sup> For every time you eat this bread and drink  
this cup, you are [symbolically] proclaiming [the  
fact of] the Lord’s death until He comes [again].

## OUR JOB AS THE CHURCH IS TO GROW OTHER UP

### YOU CAN’T GROW UP IF....

You don’t have a full understanding & knowledge  
of God’s Truth









## BY GROWING & BEARING FRUIT

Remain in Me, and I [will remain] in you. Just as no branch can bear fruit by itself without remaining in the vine, neither can you [bear fruit, producing evidence of your faith] unless you remain in Me. <sup>5</sup> I am the Vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him bears much fruit, for [otherwise] apart from Me [that is, cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing. **John 15:4-5**

## BY GROWING & BEARING FRUIT

You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and I have appointed *and* placed *and* purposefully planted you, so that you would go and bear fruit *and* keep on bearing, and that your fruit will remain *and* be lasting, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name [as My representative] He may give to you. **John 15:16**

**GROWING OF THIS NATURE MUST BE MORE FOCUSED & THAT IS WHY YOU BEING A PART OF & INVESTING IN A SMALL GROUP OF BELIEVERS IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE MODEL OF DISCIPLESHIP**

**IT IS IN THE *Transparent Fellowship* THAT THE FOUNDATION OF YOUR FAITH IS BUILT**





## A PURE VIRGIN

I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy because I have promised you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:2

## THE JERUSALEM THAT IS ABOVE, THE ISRAEL OF GOD

## THE BODY OF CHRIST

And He put all things [in every realm] in subjection under Christ's feet, and appointed Him as [supreme and authoritative] head over all things in the church, <sup>23</sup> which is His Body, the fullness of Him who fills and completes all things in all believers.

Ephesians 1:22-23

## A HOLY TEMPLE

having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the [chief] Cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole structure is joined together, and it continues [to increase] growing into a holy temple in the Lord [a sanctuary dedicated, set apart, and sacred to the presence of the Lord].

Ephesians 2:20-21

## A BRIDE OF CHRIST

Revelation 9:17

Let us rejoice and shout for joy! Let us give Him glory *and* honor, for the marriage of the Lamb has come [at last] and His bride (the redeemed) has prepared herself.

## PRESENT WITHOUT SPOT OR WRINKLE

26... just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, <sup>26</sup> so that He might sanctify the church, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word [of God], <sup>27</sup> so that [in turn] He might present the church to Himself in glorious splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy [set apart for God] and blameless.

Ephesians 5:27

## REVELATION 22:17

The [Holy] Spirit and the bride (the church, believers) say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take *and* drink the water of life without cost.

## A CHOSEN PEOPLE

## A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD

## A HOLY NATION

## A PEOPLE BELONGING TO GOD

1 PETER 2:9

## THE FLOCK OF GOD

shepherd *and* guide *and* protect the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not [motivated] for shameful gain, but with wholehearted enthusiasm;

1 Peter 5:2

## THE WIFE OF THE LAMB

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven final plagues came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." <sup>10</sup> And he

carried me away in the Spirit to a vast and lofty mountain, and showed me the holy (sanctified) city of Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God,

### Revelation 21:9-10

**JESUS IS COMING BACK FOR HIS CHURCH & HE HAS GIVEN US A VERY CLEAR PICTURE OF WHAT HE EXPECTS WHEN HE RETURNS. HE SPOKE A PARABLE THAT WHEN STUDIED SHOULD CAUSE EVERYONE OF US TO PAUSE, TO EVALUATE & IF NECESSARY, TO REPENT**

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins, who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish [thoughtless, silly, and careless], and five were wise [far-sighted, practical, and sensible]. <sup>3</sup> For when the foolish took their lamps, they did not take any [extra] oil with them, <sup>4</sup> but the wise took flasks of oil along with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> Now while the bridegroom was delayed, they all began to nod off, and they fell asleep. <sup>6</sup> But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! The bridegroom [is coming]! Go out to meet *him*.’ <sup>7</sup> Then all those virgins got up and put their own lamps in order [trimmed the wicks and added oil and lit them]. <sup>8</sup> But the foolish *virgins* said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, because our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup> But the wise replied, ‘No, otherwise there will not be enough for us and for you, *too*; go instead to the dealers and buy *oil* for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup> But while they were going away to buy *oil*, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him



GOING DEEPER

ON PAGES 12 AND 13 THERE IS A LIST OF HOW TRUE FELLOWSHIP IS EXPRESSED IN OUR ACTIONS AND WHAT WE HAVE BEEN COMMANDED TO DO THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE. Pick 4 different areas, look up the Scriptures and identify whether it is Global, Local or Both. If it is "local" can you identify how it would operate best in the Level 1, Level 2 or Level 3 of the Church.

Area of Study: \_\_\_\_\_, Scripture: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Global  Local  Level 1  Level 2  Level 3 or Both

Area of Study: \_\_\_\_\_, Scripture: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Global  Local  Level 1  Level 2  Level 3 or Both

Area of Study: \_\_\_\_\_, Scripture: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Global  Local  Level 1  Level 2  Level 3 or Both

Area of Study: \_\_\_\_\_, Scripture: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Global  Local  Level 1  Level 2  Level 3 or Both

**Now that you have completed this lesson:**

- *Briefly give a definition of your Biblical stance for your belief.*
- *Write down 3 specific places in Scripture that clearly states your understanding.*

As defined by the Bible, Church [Global & Local] is \_\_\_\_\_

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**Scripture that supports this statement is:**

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*NOTE: YOU MAY FIND THAT YOUR UNDERSTANDING WILL GO DEEPER AS YOU MOVE THROUGH THE FOLLOWING LESSONS. FEEL FREE TO REVAMP & ADD TO YOUR STATEMENTS AS YOU GROW SPIRITUALLY MATURE.*