

The New Testament Church

Marks of Distinction

Before the Foundation of the World

- **Matthew 25:34** Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you **from the foundation of the world.**

Matthew 13:35 This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet: “I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter what has been hidden **since the foundation of the world.**”

Before the Foundation of the World

- **Ephesians 1:4** even as he chose us in him **before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love:

Hebrews 9:26 for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly **since the foundation of the world**. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Before the Foundation of the World

- **1 Peter 1:20** He was foreknown **before the foundation of the world** but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you,
- **Revelation 13:8** And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain **from the foundation of the world.**

Prophesied in the Old Testament

- **Isaiah 2:1–4**
- **Micah 4:1–5**
- **Joel 2:28–32**

Isaiah 2:1–4

- ¹ The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
- ² It shall **come to pass in the latter days** that the mountain of the **house of the LORD** shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and **all the nations shall flow to it,**

Isaiah 2:1–4

- ³ and many peoples shall come, and say: “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from **Jerusalem**.
- ⁴ He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.



Jesus Promised to Build His Church

- **Matthew 16:18** And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build my church**, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- **Matthew 16:19** I will give you the **keys of the kingdom of heaven**, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.



Jesus' Prayer for Unity That All May Be One

- Jesus prayed that **all men would be one** (John 17).
- **John 17:20** “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,
- **John 17:21** **that they may all be one**, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

The Great Commission

- All Nations (Matthew 28:19) and every person in that nation (Mark 16:15–16).

The Great Commission

- **Matthew 28:19** Therefore **go** and **make disciples** of **all nations**, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
- **Mark 16:15** He said to them, “**Go** into **all the world** and **preach** the gospel to all **creation**.”
- **Mark 16:16** Whoever **believes** and is **baptized** will be **saved**, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.



The Great Commission

- **Luke 24:44** Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, **that everything written about me** in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”
- **Luke 24:45** Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,

The Great Commission

- **Luke 24:46** and said to them, “Thus it is written, that **the Christ** should **suffer** and **on the third day rise from the dead**,
- **Luke 24:47** and that **repentance** for the **forgiveness of sins** should be **proclaimed in his name to all nations**, beginning from Jerusalem.

The Great Commission

- **Luke 24:48** You are witnesses of these things.
- **Luke 24:49** And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until **you are clothed with power from on high.**”

The Great Commission

- **John 20:21** Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”
- **John 20:22** And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.
- **John 20:23** **If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”**



Fulfillment (Acts 2:1, 5, 16–17)

- ¹ When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.
- ⁵ Now there were dwelling in **Jerusalem** Jews, devout men from **every nation under heaven**.
- ¹⁶ But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:
- ¹⁷ ““And in the **last days** it shall be, God declares,

Fulfilled and Established in the New Testament

- **Acts 1:8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in **Jerusalem** and in all **Judea** and **Samaria**, and to the **end of the earth**.
- **Acts 2** (Jews)
- **Acts 8** (Samaritans)
- **Acts 10** (Gentiles)

The Church is the People

- **1 Peter 2:4** As you come **to him, a living stone** rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious,
- **1 Peter 2:5** **you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house**, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.



One New Man

- **Ephesians 2:14** For he himself is our peace, **who has made us both [Jew & Gentile] one** and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility
- **Ephesians 2:15** by 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,



Reconcile Jew & Gentile in One Body (Church)

- Ephesians 2:16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.
- Ephesians 2:17 And he came and **preached peace** to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.

Jews & Gentiles Members of the Same Household

- **Ephesians 2:18** For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.
- **Ephesians 2:19** So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, **but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,**
- **Ephesians 2:20** built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,



Grows into a Holy Temple

- **Ephesians 2:21** in whom the whole structure, being joined together, **grows into a holy temple in the Lord.**
- **Ephesians 2:22** In him you also are **being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.**



The Unity of the Church

- **Ephesians 4:4** There is **one body** and **one Spirit**—just as you were called to the **one hope** that belongs to your call—
- **Ephesians 4:5** **one Lord, one faith, one baptism,**
- **Ephesians 4:6** **one God and Father of all,** who is over all and through all and in all.



Teach the Same thing in Every Church

- **1 Timothy 4:17** That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, **as I teach them everywhere in every church.**



No Divisions Among You

- **1 Corinthians 1:10** I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **that all of you agree**, and **that there be no divisions among you**, but that you **be united** in the same mind and the same judgment.



Christ is NOT Divided

- **1 Corinthians 1:12** What I mean is that each one of you says, “I follow Paul,” or “I follow Apollos,” or “I follow Cephas,” or “I follow Christ.”
- **1 Corinthians 1:13** **Is Christ divided?** Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

Christ is the Head of the Church

- **Ephesians 1:22** And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to **the church**,
- **Ephesians 1:23** **which is his body**, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Christ is the Head of the Church

- **Colossians 1:18** And he is the **head of the body, the church**. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that **in everything he might be preeminent**.
- **Colossians 1:24** Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of **his body, that is, the church**,

Entrance into the Church

- **Hear the Gospel** (1 Corinthians 15:1–5)
- **Believe the Gospel** (Romans 10:9–10)
- **Repent of Sins** (Acts 2:38; 17:30)
- **Confess that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God** (Romans 10:9–10)
- **Be Baptized (Immersed in Water)** for the Remission of Sins (Acts 2:38)

The Doctrine/Teaching of the Church

- **The New Testament** (Apostles' Doctrine – Acts 2:42)
- Matthew – Revelation

Members of the Church

- **Christians** (Acts 11:26; 1 Peter 4:16)
- **Saints** (Romans 1:7)
- **Brothers** (Romans 1:13) (term includes sisters)
- **Priests** (1 Peter 2:5, 9)

Descriptions of the Church

- The word “**church**” means “**assembly.**”
- There is no formal name for the church, but many descriptions and images of the church are used.
- The church is made up of those who are called out of the world – and they assemble together as God’s people on Earth.

Called Out to Assemble by the Gospel

- **1 Corinthians 1:24** but to **those who are called**, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
- **2 Thessalonians 2:13** But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.
- **2 Thessalonians 2:14** To this he **called you through our gospel**, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Descriptions of the Church

- **churches of Christ** (Rom 16:16)
- **body of Christ** (1 Cor 12:27)
- **church of God** (1 Corinthians 1:2)
- **building of God** (1 Cor 3:9)
- **temple of God** (1 Corinthians 3:16)
- **household of God** (1 Tim 3:15)
- **church of the living God** (1 Timothy 3:15)



Organization of the Church

- **Christ is the Head** (Ephesians 1:22–23; Colossians 1:18)
- **Elders (Shepherds [Pastors], Overseers [Bishops])**
(1 Timothy 3:1–7; Titus 1:5–9)
- **Deacons** (1 Timothy 3:8–13)
- **Evangelist (Minister, Preacher) and Teachers**
(1 Timothy 4:13–16; 5:22; 2 Timothy 4:1–5; Acts 13:1; James 3:1)

Worship of the Church

- **Sunday** (Acts 2:1 - Pentecost on Sunday; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 16:1–2; Rev 1:10)
- **Lord's Supper** (Matt 26:26–29; Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor 11:17 – 34)
- **Singing** (1 Cor 14:15; Eph 5:19; Col 3:16)
- **Prayer** (1 Cor 14:15; 1 Tim 2:1–2, 8)
- **Giving** (1 Cor 16:1–2; 2 Cor 9:6–8)
- **Scripture Reading, Teaching, Preaching** (1 Tim 4:13)

Work of the Church

- **Evangelism** (Matt 28:19–20; Mark 16:15–16; Luke 24:46–47)
- **Edification** (Eph 4:11–16)
- **Benevolence** (Matt 5:43–48, 7:12; 1Thess 3:12; 5:15; Rom 12:9, 14, 20; Gal 6:10; 1 John 3:18)

Conclusion

- The church is the eternal purpose of God (not an afterthought) (Eph 3:1–13). All those who obey the gospel are added to the body of Christ—the church of Christ. Jesus promised to build His(singular) church (Matt 16:18). Jesus prayed that all men would be one (John 17). The one church he prayed for was established in Jerusalem as prophesied by the prophets (Is 2; Micah 4). Denominations (divisions) were/are not in the eternal purpose of God (1 Cor 1:10).

Conclusion

- God's eternal plan was for Jesus to come into the world, born of a woman (Luke 1:35; Gal 4:4), live a sinless life (overcoming temptations) (Heb 4:15), be put to death, be buried, rise from the grave, appear to others after his death (1 Cor 15:1–5), ascend to heaven to sit on His throne as King of his kingdom – church (Daniel 7:13–14; Acts 2:30). He is now the head of the one body of Christ (the one church of Christ) (Eph 1:22–23; Col 1:18, 24).



Conclusion

- One must be faithful to God until death or until he returns to deliver the kingdom (church – God’s people) to God (1 Cor 15:24–26).
- Above are the characteristics of the one true church. Any church (assembly) of people who meet and do not bear the image of the church as identified, specified, and outlined in Scripture cannot be the one true church. I pray that you will examine the Scriptures and be added to the church found in the New Testament.

Romans 16:16

- Greet one another with a holy kiss.
All the churches of Christ greet you.