

THE CHURCH

We believe that all born again persons make up the Universal Church, which is a spiritual organism (a living thing, not a Building!). This involves all the people across the world who claim Jesus as their Savior. It also encompasses the living and the dead, who have already passed into the Eternal Presence of the Lord.

The Church is defined in Scripture as a: Body, Family, Vineyard, Bride, Temple, Flock, Training Center, a House of Prayer, a Harvest Field and an Army. It could also be described as a Hospital and a Morgue (where dead sinners come to life!).

We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament in various Scriptures.

EPHESIANS 1:22-23: And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his **body**, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

I CORINTHIANS 12:12-14: Just as a **body**, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one **body**, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by^[a] one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ Even so the **body** is not made up of one part but of many.

ACTS 2:42-47: They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

EPHESIANS 5:25-27 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

REVELATION 19:5-7: Then a voice came from the throne, saying: "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both great and small!" ⁶ Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. ⁷ Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his **bride** has made herself ready.

(Acts 14:27; 20:17; 28-32; Romans 12:5; 16:16-18; I Timothy 3:1-13; 2 Timothy 2:1; Titus 1:5-11; I Peter 5:1-4)