

CHURCH

Church Defined

When we hear the word church, we think of several things...

The *Merriam Webster* online dictionary defined it in the following ways...

- 1 : a building for public and especially Christian worship
- 2 : the clergy or officialdom of a religious body
- 3 *often capitalized* : a body or organization of religious believers: as **a** : the whole body of Christians **b** : **DENOMINATION** <the Presbyterian *church*>
c : **CONGREGATION**
- 4 : a public divine worship <goes to *church* every Sunday>
- 5 : the clerical profession <considered the *church* as a possible career>

God has another way of defining the Church...

ekklesia

from ek, "out of," and klesis, "a calling" (kaleo, "to call")
(From Vines Expository Dictionary)

The Church is a called out group of people, an assembly of saints!
Romans 1:6; Ephesians 4:4

We are Called...

- By God, according to His purpose.
Romans 8:28; II Timothy 1:9; Ephesians 1:4, 5, 11
- As possessions of Jesus Christ. Romans 1:6; Matthew 16:18
- As saints, sanctified in Jesus. Romans 1:7; I Corinthians 1:2
- Called from sin to righteousness!
- As members of Christ's Body. I Corinthians 12:12-13, 18
- As children of God who appear as lights in the world. Philippians 2:15
- As the Bride of Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:25-27
- To eternal glory. I Peter 5:10

The Church's...

- Head is Jesus. Ephesians 5:23
- Foundation and ultimate success is Jesus. Matthew 16:18
- destiny is to be like Jesus. Romans 8:29
- mission is to share the Good News of Jesus. Acts 1:8

The Church always expresses itself in local assemblies!

We, the Church, are now to walk worthy of our calling!
Ephesians 4:1; I Thess 2:11-13

