

names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, ²⁴to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

What do we learn about the church here that has not been stated before?

The word ekklesia means a called assembly. This assembly can be either secular, as it was in Ephesus, or it can be religious as it was in Revelation.

How are the two name listed here the same?

Assembly of God & Church of God

Preparing for Prayer

Adoration _____

Confession _____

Thanks _____

Supplication _____



The Apostles Creed

Study lesson FIVE prepared by

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What The Apostles Creed says of the CHURCH

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:
Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He arose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty,
whence He shall come to judge the living and the
dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

The word Catholic means universal and is not the same as when used describing the Roman Catholic Church. The word catholic was first used in the 2nd century to describe the church and its outreach. It was used to distinguish the Roman church from others churches using the name church to describe and separate themselves. Ironic the word for universal is used to separate or to show they are not universal but exclusive.

Different groups describe themselves as the church and some see themselves as exclusively the real church. They teach if you do not belong to their group you are not really part of the church and by extension you are not really a Christian. Some of these groups teach that you must be baptized in their church or you have not really been baptized.

The real church is invisible and includes all born from above believer in Jesus Christ. No human organization contains or represents the church as a whole or universally.

We use the word church to describe people, buildings, and religious groups. We need to look at the original use of the word and how it developed to understand the church and Jesus' use of the word to describe His followers.

ἐκκλησία *ekklēsia* is a Greek word that Comes from two words that mean **“to Call”** & **“from out of”** or to call out to a place and assemble together. How the word was used in the world at the time of Jesus is evident in scripture and the context it is found in.

One of the greatest problems is we use the word differently and associate its' meaning with out modern culture.

See Ephesians 5.22-32

²²Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the _____, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴Now as the _____ submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the _____ and gave himself up for her ²⁶to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷and to present her to himself as a radiant _____, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the _____—³⁰for we are members of his body. ³¹“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” ³²This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the _____.

What is Jesus' relationship to the church?

How is this different from the individual way we often view our relationship with Him?

See Hebrews 12.14-24

²²But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³to the _____ of the firstborn, whose

See 1 Corinthians 11.18

In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a _____, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it.

How is calling this assembly a church a contradiction of terms?

See Revelation 1. 10-20

vs. 10 Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven _____: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.”

This is not about one church but seven different churches. How and why are they to be seen this way?

vs. 20 The mystery of the seven _____ that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden _____ is this: The seven _____ are the _____ of the seven _____, and the seven _____ are the seven _____.

How does this begin to help us understand church organization and responsibility?

What do we learn about the church in these verses?

Col 1.18 _____

Col 1.24 _____

Col 4.15 _____

1 Timothy 3.15 _____

Understanding How the Word was Used– The word ekkleōsia can be translated ‘ASSEMBLY.’

See Acts 19.21-41

What was required for an assembly? Vs. 25

Where was this assembly held at? Va. 29 & 31

Why would they hold it there?

Describe this assembly and why they were there. vs. 32

Could they handle any legal matters here? Why or why not. vs. 39

How do we know this assembly was something they did on a regular basis? vs. 41

See Acts 7.37-38

vs. 38 He was in the _____ in the desert, with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers; and he received living words to pass on to us.

Who all was present of this assembly or gathering?

How would you describe this assembly or gathering?

Understanding How the Word was Used– The word ekkleōsia can be translated ‘CHURCH.’

SEE Matthew 16.13-18

vs. 18 I will build my _____, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

How does Jesus use the word here? How is the meaning starting to change?

How can the original meaning help us understand what Jesus was talking about?

See Matthew 18.15-19

vs. 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the _____; and if he refuses to listen even to the _____, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

How does this change the meaning of what Jesus was talking about here?

vs. 19 For where two or three come _____ in my name, there am I with them.

What is the purpose of assembly? See also verse 16

See Acts 5.1-11

vs. 11 Great fear seized the whole _____ and all who heard about these events.

Why was this group of people meeting together?

How would using the word assembly help understand better what is happening here?

See Acts 8.1-3

vs.1 On that day a great persecution broke out against the _____ at Jerusalem

vs. 3 Saul began to destroy the _____. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.

How has the use of the word changed its meaning here from the other ways it has been used?

see Acts 9.31

vs.31 Then the _____ throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.

How is the church here growing into a universal or catholic assembly?