

The Church was in the mind of God from before the foundation of the world and is presented in the Bible as one of God's mysteries now revealed ([Eph. 1:4; 3:8-9](#)). The Church of our Lord Jesus Christ has been blood bought and is the exclusive property of our Lord Jesus Christ ([Acts 20:28](#)). When first using the word "CHURCH" Jesus called it **HIS CHURCH** ([Matt. 16:18](#)). In this two part lesson we will discover vital truths and foundational principles concerning what the Bible teaches about this wonderful mystery of God called, THE CHURCH.

## 1. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE WORD, 'CHURCH'?

The Greek word "**ekklesia**" which is translated "**church**" in our Bibles was not originally a religious term. It referred to the registered voters or citizens of a Greek city who were personally "*called out*" to become part of a town meeting pertaining to the political and governmental affairs of their region. When these 'called-out' ones convened together, they made up the '**ekklesia**'.

Both Jesus and Paul coined this word for its ready application to all (men and woman) who were "*called out*" of the world to become members of the Kingdom of God.

*"Among whom are ye also **the called** of Jesus Christ." Romans 1:6*

*"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and **hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.**" Colossians 1:13*

*"But ye are **a chosen generation**, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath **called you out** of darkness into his marvelous light." 1 Peter 2:9*

*"Who hath saved us, **and called us with an holy calling**, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began," 2 Timothy 1:9*

According to [2 Timothy 1:9](#), we see that our calling came about not because of our works but because of God's own purpose and grace which was provided for us in Christ even before the world began.

### The CHURCH:

#### **A. Is the gathering together of those who have been called out by God**

*"Not forsaking the **assembling of ourselves together**, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Hebrews 10:25*

In **1 Corinthians 14:19, 28**, Paul gives instruction concerning the orderly flow of prophecy, tongues and interpretation and when he does, he uses the phrase, **“in the church”** to identify the actual assembly.

**B. Is related to the Kingdom (government / authority) of God**

*“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build **MY CHURCH**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee **the keys of the kingdom of heaven**: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” Matthew 16:18-19*

**Having this in mind, the local church can be likened to an EMBASSY and each member should view themselves as ambassadors of the Kingdom of God (2 Cor. 5:20). Therefore, collectively The Church is here to represent the authority and interests of the Kingdom of God in the midst of the region that we’ve been called to touch.**

**C. Embodies true Spiritual and Kingdom authority when they assemble together**

*“And I will give unto thee **the keys of the kingdom of heaven**: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” Matthew 16:19*

*“Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. **For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.**” Matthew 18:19-20*

## **2. IS THE CHURCH SOLELY A NEW TESTAMENT CONCEPT?**

Like Salvation, The Church is a **BIBLE CONCEPT**. There is an Old Testament phase and a New Testament phase (*pre-Calvary & post-Calvary*). God has been “calling out” a people unto Himself since the days of Genesis.

**(a) Please read Acts 7:38. What phrase did Stephen use when referring to Moses and the children of Israel in the Old Testament?**

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It is important to note that Israel was given first opportunity to believe the Gospel, but as a nation they rejected Jesus during that allotted time and then the Gospel brought to the Gentiles.

**- JESUS:**

*“Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, **The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.**...And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them.” Matthew 21:42-43, 45*

**- PAUL:**

*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation **to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.**” Romans 1:16*

*“For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.” Romans 1:16*

**- JAMES:**

*“And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me: Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, **to take out of them a people for his name.**” Acts 15:13-14*

**3. DOES THIS MEAN THAT THE CALLED OUT ONES OF BOTH JEWS AND GENTILES MAKE UP ONE CHURCH?**

Yes. There is only **ONE TRUE CHURCH**. Both are partakers of the SAME KINGDOM, believe the **SAME GOSPEL** and have the **SAME FOUNDATION** (Jesus Christ). That they are being built upon.

*“For **ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.** For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. **There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.** And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.” Galatians 3:26-29*

*“For **there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek:** for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.” Romans 10:12*

In the Bible there is only **ONE TRUE CHURCH**, and it is not divided according to gender, race or into denominations. A sectarian spirit of any kind is wrong. It only represents the carnality of individuals and contributes toward personal kingdom building.

*“Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. **Is Christ divided?** was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?” 1 Corinthians 1:12-13*

**(b) Please read 1 Corinthians 3:1-4. Briefly describe the correction Paul was bringing to The Church at Corinth.**

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*“For **as the body is one**, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: **so also is Christ.**” 1 Corinthians 12:12*

#### **4. WHAT IS THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH?**

The foundation of The Church is **JESUS CHRIST**. The revelation of who He is (THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD) is the only proper and acceptable foundation upon which God has chosen to build His Church.

***The scriptures on the following page do show how that God Himself has chosen the foundation of church.***

##### **OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY:**

*“Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, **I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone**, a precious corner stone, **a sure foundation**: he that believeth shall not make haste.” Isaiah 28:16*

*“Listen carefully, **I am laying in Zion for a foundation a Stone**, a tested Stone, A precious Cornerstone for the [secure] foundation, firmly placed. He who believes [who trusts in, relies on, and adheres to that Stone] will not be disturbed or give way [in sudden panic]. [Pslam 118:22; Matthew 21:42; Acts 4:11; Romans 9:33; Ephesians 2:20; 1 Peter 2:4-6]” Isaiah 28:16 (AMP)*

##### **NEW TESTAMENT PROPHECY:**

*“Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and **he that believeth ON HIM** shall not be confounded. 1 Peter 28:16*

*“And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone**;” Ephesians 2:20*

**Notice, God laid the “FOUNDATION STONE” in Zion (The Church):**

*“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, **which is Jesus Christ.**” 1 Corinthians 3:11*

*And Simon Peter answered and said, **Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God**. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood **hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven**. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and **upon this rock I will build my church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Matthew 16:16-18*

***The Church is not built upon Peter (a stone or piece of rock) but upon the Great Rock: The Revelation of JESUS, THE CHRIST!***

## 5. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH?

The purpose of The Church is to be a visible expression of the cry glory of Jesus Christ in the earth throughout the ages.

*“To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:... (21) **Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages**, world without end. Amen. ” Ephesians 3:10-11, 21*

*“[The purpose is that] through the church the complicated, the many-sided / multifaceted wisdom of God [in all its infinite varied and innumerable / countless aspects] might now be made known [revealing the mystery] to the [angelic] rulers and authorities (principalities and powers) in the heavenly places / sphere. This is in accordance with [the terms of] the eternal and timeless purpose which He has realized and carried into effect in [the person of] Christ Jesus our Lord,... (21) to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever. Amen (so be it). ” Ephesians 3:10-11, 21 (AMP)*

**To help us further understand God’s purpose for His Church, let us consider THREE Primary metaphors used in the New Testament to describe The Church:**

### **A. The Church: Called To Be A Spiritual FAMILY**

*“As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto **them who are of the household (family) of faith**.” Galatians 6:10*

*“Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of **the household (family) of God**.” Ephesians 2:19*

As a Spiritual family The Church is called to **love** and **care** from one another and to reproduce spiritual sons & daughters.

### **B. The Church: Called To Be A Spiritual BODY**

*“And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, **Which is his body**, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.” Ephesians 1:22-23*

*“Now **ye are the body of Christ**, and members in particular.” 1 Corinthians 12:27*

The phrase, “**Body of Christ**” actually means the physical frame of the **ANOINTED ONE**. When Jesus was here on earth, His physical frame housed the Spiritual fullness and glory of the Father (*John 1:14, Col. 1:19*).

Since the day of Pentecost (*Acts 2:1-4*), it has pleased God for His Spirit to be “housed” by the many members of His church, so together we constitute **HIS LIVING BODY** on the earth. This means that Jesus Christ now **FUNCTIONS** through us, here on the earth. To accomplish this He has placed variety of spiritual gifts and callings within His Body. This means **EVERY MEMBER** is vital and important to the overall functioning of His Body.

*“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: **so also is Christ.**” 1 Corinthians 12:12*

### **C. The Church: Called To Be A Spiritual TEMPLE**

*“In whom all the building fitly framed together **groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.**” Ephesians 1:22-23*

In the Old Testament, the tabernacle / temple of God was built according to a divine pattern for the habitation of God (*Ex. 25:8*). The very fact that The Church is called to be God’s Holy Temple speaks primarily of The Church being the earthly location of God’s **HABITATION** (*manifest presence*). Therefore The Church is not some edifice built by man, but rather a living temple that God Himself is building throughout the entire world!.

## **6. IF A BELIEVER IS ALREADY PART OF THE CHURCH WORLDWIDE, THEN WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO BE A MEMBER WITHIN A LOCAL CHURCH?**

Of the 115 times that the word, “**ekklesia**” appears within the Greek text more than 90 times it is referring to a specific gathering of people that are identified by their local region (*Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2; 1 Thes. 1:1; Gal. 1:2*).

This means that the vision of the world-wide church should have a workable and tangible expression within specific and geographic regions so as to represent the Life and Ministry of Christ that dwells in them.

It is through the local church where every member can **serve, become equipped, function, grow, be cared for, be accountable and practically find their place in the body.**

The local church affords each member the opportunity where true Christian living can be expressed. Here is where we can practice, “**One Another**” Christianity:

*“Be **kindly affectioned one to another** with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another.” Romans 12:10*

*“Owe no man any thing, but to **love one another**: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.” Romans 13:8*

*“Wherefore **receive ye one another**, as Christ also received us to the glory of God. Romans 15:7*

*“For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but **by love serve one another.**” Galatians 5:13*

*“**Bear ye one another's burdens**, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2*

*“**Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another,** if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.” Colossians 3:13*

*“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; **teaching and admonishing one another** in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” Colossians 3:16*

*“Wherefore **comfort yourselves together, and edify one another,** even as also ye do.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11*

*“But **exhort one another** daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.” Hebrews 3:13*

**These epistles were addressed and specifically written to “local” regional churches where brethren were worshipping, serving, giving and ministering together.**

## 7. DOES THE BIBLE DESCRIBE THE LIFE EXPRESSION OF THE CHURCH?

Most definitely. Three thousand that believed the Gospel on the day of Pentecost were baptized and then “added” to the church (the 120 in the upper room) in Jerusalem ([Acts 2:41](#)).

The Bible teaches **FIVE** primary activities that became the constant practice of the church:

*“And they continued steadfastly in the **apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.**” Acts 2:42*

*“Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where **preaching the word.**” Acts 8:4*

### A. Apostolic Doctrine

First of all, we find that the church is a redeemed community ESTABLISHED in truth by proper teaching ([Eph. 4:14](#); [1 Tim. 4:6, 13, 16](#); [Titus 1:9](#)). The Bible teaches that we are to be built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the CHIEF cornerstone. ([Ephesians 2:20](#)). Teaching apostles and prophets were laying the foundation stones in the newly formed church by virtue of their grace and calling.

According to [1 Corinthians 3:10](#), Paul the apostle said that he was used to lay a

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*“Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of **repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.**” Hebrews 6:1-2*

### B. Fellowship

The word ‘Fellowship’ in the Greek language is known as the ‘*koinonia*’ of the saints.

**BODY** life should begin immediately after birth. Spiritual babes need to be nurtured by a spiritual family so they can mature properly and come to age where they understand that a life of obedience to the will and purpose of God is man's highest form of worship. Besides being the most fulfilling state of human existence.

Fellowship means that we **FULLY PARTICIPATE** in sharing **HIS LIFE** together. In other words... **WE ARE FAMILY!!** Therefore, love requires us to bear, share and care for each other (including our time, prayers, gifts and monetary resources).

That first century church didn't seek to impress society with its grand buildings or its impeccable organization. What they presented was... "**A WAY**". Remember, before they were first called Christians at Antioch, they were known as, '**The Way**' ([Acts 19:9; 22:4](#)).

It was a **KINGDOM WAY** to **love God**, to **love each other**, to **reach out** and to **live life**.

Jesus went on record to say that the family love expressed by our relationships is the clearest indication that we are His disciples ([John 13:35](#)). This kingdom reality lived out publicly must not be overlooked nor understated when it comes to evangelizing our neighbors and community. **We must become the very 'Epistles of Christ' read of all men!** ([2 Cor. 3:1-3](#))

By His Church God desires to present a "Kingdom" counter culture through the expression of our fellowship.

### **C. Breaking of Bread**

Every true family eats together and we happen to have a family meal that is unique only to believers. It is the New Covenant Meal or what we have come to know as the Lord's Supper. This is where we celebrate and remember **HIM... The head of our family!**

Here is where we commemorate His sacrificial love, while reminding ourselves of both the **cost** and the **goal** by which we are to walk and live... **The Cross!** We are both blessed by it and measured by it all at the same time.

The Cross has **BENEFITS** (*salvation, healing, complete deliverance, etc*) and **CLAIMS** (*my entire life*). As He laid down his life for us, so ought we to lay down our lives for one another.

By the 'breaking of bread' we do show **THE LORD'S DEATH 'TILL HE COMES!** ([1 Cor. 11:26](#) ).

### **D. Prayers**

The prayers expressed by the church included **WORSHIP, SUPPLICATIONS, PETITIONS, INTERCESSIONS** and all manner of prayers, both individual and corporate.

Corporate prayer will enable us to enter into our priestly ministry together. Here is when we together can enter into the 'most holy' place or as the writer of Hebrews put it...**LET US come with boldness** before His Throne of Grace ([Hebrews 4:16](#)). In corporate prayer gatherings the power, anointing and presence of God is greatly increased ([Acts 4:31](#)).

**(d) Please read Acts 4:31. Describe what happened when the Church came together to pray:**

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### **E. Evangelism**

Above all things the church is a continuation of the **LIFE** and **MINISTRY** of Jesus Christ. Jesus came to seek and to save the lost and so should the church. By means of the gospel, Jesus has committed unto us the word of reconciliation (*2 Cor. 5:19-20*), therefore we are to go into this world as His ambassadors, proclaiming the Good News of His redemption and of his Kingdom.

*“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” Matthew 24:14*

## **8. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR THE CHURCH TO MEET TOGETHER OFTEN?**

The following represents several important reasons why the church should gather together:

### **A. We Are Commanded To Do So**

*“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” Hebrews 10:25*

### **B. To Join In A Corporate Expression of Worship**

When we gather together to worship and to exalt Jesus Christ we are demonstrating the true manifestation of the victory of His Cross and Resurrection. He died and rose again so that he may have **ONE BODY**. When we come together to worship Him, we continue to demonstrate to ourselves, others and to the principalities and powers the triumphant work of Jesus Christ.

**(e) Please fill in the following scripture: Psalm 32:3**

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*“But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. **For he is OUR PEACE**, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby.” Ephesians 2:13-16*

*“To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God.” Ephesians 3:10*

**C. To Receive Instruction From The Word of God Through The Five Fold Ministry**

*“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” Ephesians 4:11-12*

*“Then came one and told them, saying, Behold, the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people.” Acts 5:25*

**(f) According to Acts 5:42, what was taking place both in the houses and in the temple?**

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*“These things command and teach.” 1 Timothy 4:11*

**D. To Experience A ‘Corporate Anointing’ Through The Operation of The Gifts of The Holy Spirit**

**According to 1 Corinthians 12:1-12, we are taught:**

- *There are a variety of spiritual gifts represented in the Body (v.4)*
- *The variety of gifts are different expressions of ONE SPIRIT (v.4)*
- *Each gift operates and functions differently (serves a different purpose) (v. 5,6)*
- *The manifestations of the Spirit are given to individuals to profit someone else (v.7)*
- *The Holy Spirit determines the distribution of HIS gifts within HIS Body (v.11)*
- **Christ (the anointed One) is made up by many members functioning in and as ONE BODY! (v.12)**

*\* In 1 Corinthians 14, Paul places great importance upon the role of prophetic ministry that should be expressed in and through the church when we meet together.*

**9. THE FOLLOWING REPRESENTS FOURTEEN IMPORTANT NEW TESTAMENT METAPHORS REPRESENTING THE CHURCH ?**

**A FAMILY** (*Gal. 6:10; Eph. 2:19*): *A place where familial (covenant) relationships should develop and grow; covenant love; sharing, caring and bearing each other’s burdens.*

**A BODY** (*1 Cor. 12:18; 27; Eph. 1:22,23*): *A Body is made up of distinct parts that are called to function together (interconnected): A healthy body has two things in common: Its **circulatory system** (common breath / Spirit) and **skin** (common covering / spiritual authority).*

**A TEMPLE / TABERNACLE** (*1 Cor. 3:16,17; Eph. 2:21, Heb.9:11*): *A place dedicated for spiritual worship; Built according to a divine blueprint and pattern (the word); an habitation for God’s awesome presence.*

**A BUILDING** (1 Cor. 3:9; Eph. 2:21): A place where lives (living stones) are being joined together; all buildings have three parts: **Foundation** (strength), **Walls** (structure / definition) and **Roof** (covering). Remember, the value of a building is far greater than the value of each stone by itself.

**AN ARMY** (Phil. 2:25; 2 Tim. 2:3,4): Being an army means that we are called to endure persecution together, engage in spiritual warfare together, overcome enemy forces together and called ultimately to expand kingdom borders within a territory.

**A GARDEN** (1 Cor. 3:9): We are called to bring forth good fruit and from our lives the very aroma of Christ should be manifested (2 Cor. 2:15). We also understand and embrace His pruning process so that we may bear much fruit.

**A VIRGIN BRIDE / WIFE** (2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:24-32): As a wife we are called to be wholly joined in covenantal love and intimacy with Jesus Christ alone; As a virgin bride we are to become sanctified, undiluted, without mixture, while living in submission to Jesus our Bride Groom, expressing His Glory!

**SONS OF GOD** (Gal. 4:6; 1 John 3:1): As sons of God, we are called to be obedient to our Father's **VOICE**, to reflect our Father's **NATURE** and to be about our Father's **BUSINESS**. As sons we are called to pass through phases of growth and character development, accepting our Father's chastening as a sign of His love toward us as He prepares us to walk in the **responsibilities, privileges and authority** of His inheritance.

**A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD** (1 Peter 2:9): As New Covenant priests we have access to the very presence (throne) of God, being called to a place of intercession. As a **ROYAL** priesthood we exercise kingdom authority through our prayers and intercessions

**CHOSEN GENERATION** (1 Pet. 2:9): We have become a selected '**offspring**' of God, made to become partakers of His Divine nature; a new creation race of people.

**MT. ZION** (Hebrews 12:22; 1 Pet. 2:6): Where David's throne was established. The place where God's authority and government rules, reigns and is expressed.

**ISRAEL OF GOD** (Gal. 3:28; 6:16): A **NEW COVENANT** nation made up of a New Creation Race in Christ Jesus, where there is neither Jew nor Greek bond nor free, male nor female, but all are one in Christ Jesus!

**CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM** (Matt. 13:38): As children of the **KINGDOM** we were meant to live under God's total authority and government (Lordship), living by his laws and principles which are not of this world.

**TRUTH IN REVIEW**

<b>FELLOWSHIP</b>	<b>FOUNDATION</b>	<b>THE CHRIST</b>
<b>DIVIDED</b>	<b>PRAYERS</b>	<b>CARE</b>
<b>FUNCTION</b>	<b>JESUS</b>	<b>BREAKING OF BREAD</b>
<b>APOSTLE'S DOCTRINE</b>	<b>HABITATION</b>	<b>LOCAL</b>
<b>EVANGELISM</b>	<b>MYSTERY</b>	<b>LOVE</b>
<b>KINGDOM</b>	<b>CALLED OUT</b>	

1. The word "Church" comes from the Greek word, "EKKLESIA" and it means \_\_\_\_\_ ones.
2. The Church is founded upon the revelation of Jesus: \_\_\_\_\_
3. The Church was in the mind of God before the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world.
4. The Church is God's \_\_\_\_\_ revealed in the New Testament.
5. The fact The Church is called to be a family means that we are to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for one another.
6. The fact The Church is a Body means that we called to \_\_\_\_\_ together.
7. The fact The Church is called to be God's Temple means that we are to be the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's presence.
8. The Church is called to demonstrate and to express \_\_\_\_\_ living in the midst of this present world.
9. Every believer should be a member within a \_\_\_\_\_ church.
10. The Church should never be \_\_\_\_\_ by race, gender, denominations or by any other means.
11. The Church belongs exclusively to \_\_\_\_\_.
12. These are the FIVE practices that the First Century Church continued in  
1. \_\_\_\_\_; 2. \_\_\_\_\_; 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_; 5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Memorize: Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:22-23**