

Church

Meaning of “Church”

- The word “Church“ derives from the Middle English “chirche,” which ultimately came from Late Greek “kyriakon”, from Greek, neuter of “kyriakos”: of the lord, from kyrios lord, master.
- The Greek word *ekklesia*, which is translated *church*, is a combination of the Greek word *kaleo* (to call) and *ek*, a preposition meaning out or out of, therefore “called out one.”

In But Not of the World

- **The word “church” is commonly used to describe a gathering, or gathering place.**
- **It really focuses more on the relationship to the Lord and the world.**
- **Christians live in the world, but are not of the world (John 17:14-16).**
 - **Thus, the application of being "the called out ones" is appropriate.**
 - **The focus is upon our status as belonging to the Lord and being called out of worldliness and self life.**

Ekklesia Can Describe Various Gatherings

- In Acts 7:38, Stephen speaks of the “church” in the wilderness.**
- In Acts 19:32 and 41, ecclesia is used for an angry mob, assembled unlawfully.**
- In Acts 19:39, the city clerk urged them to make their inquiries in a lawful ekklesia.**

The Universal Church

- **Sometimes the word “church is used in the sense of all the people who are saved throughout the whole world during the entire Christian age.**
- **Matthew 16:18**
- **Ephesians 1:22-23**
- **Ephesians 5:23**

The Church in a Region

- **At other times, “church” is used to designate the church at a particular time and in a particular region.**
- **Acts 9:31**
- **2 Corinthians 8:1**
- **Galatians 1:2**

The Local Church

- **“Church” is also used to refer to the saved in a particular locality.**
- **Acts 14:23**
- **Romans 16:1**
- **1 Corinthians 1:2**
- **Colossians 4:16**

The Church Which Meets in Someone's House

- **There are times when “church” refers to the saved who gather at a particular house.**
- **Romans 16:3-5**
- **Colossians 4:15**

The Church Has No Proper Name

- **The church cannot rightly be called a denomination (denominate--to name) since it has no proper name, only descriptions.**
 - **Romans 16:16 “churches of Christ”**
 - **1 Corinthians 1:2 “church of God”**
 - **Galatians 6:10 “household of faith“**
 - **Ephesians 1:22-23 the "body" of Christ**
 - **Ephesians 3:15 the "family" of God**
 - **Ephesians 5:22-33 the bride of Christ**
 - **Colossians 1:13 "kingdom of the Son"**
 - **Hebrews 12:23 “church of the firstborn [ones]”**