

The Church

Lesson 12: 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 4:11-16;

Galatians 1:1-3, 21-24; 1 Timothy 3:1-13

August 19, 2018

Review study

- The Bible
- The Godhead
- Creation
- Salvation
- The Christian Life
- The Christians Three Enemies
- The Church
- The Last Things

Outline

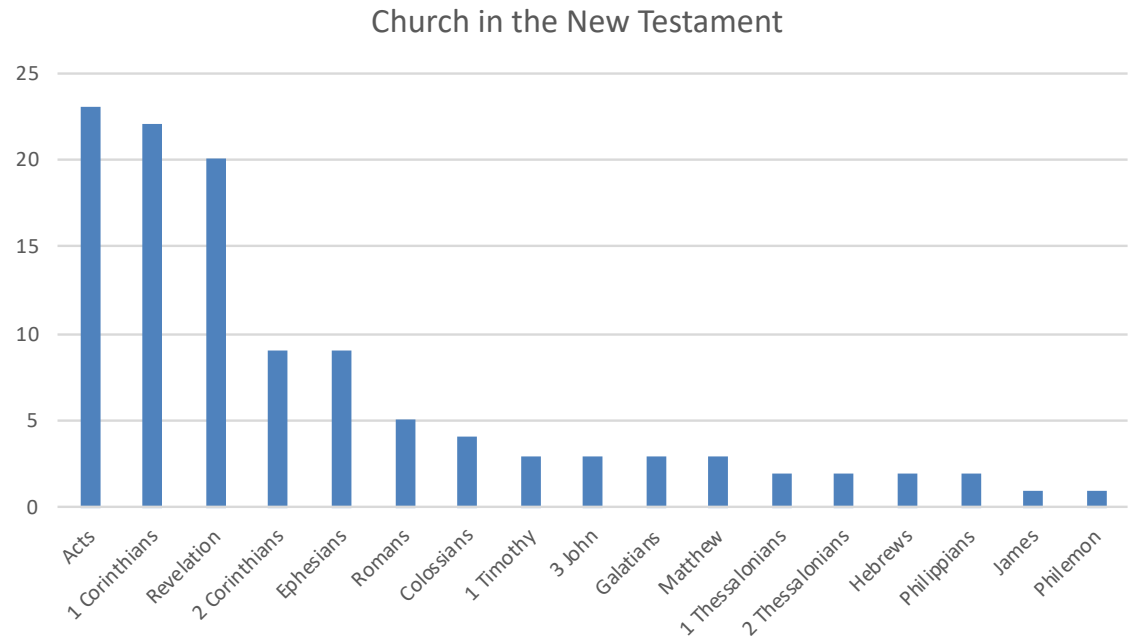
- What is the Church?
- What is the purpose of the Church?
- What is the structure of the Church?

Metaphors for the Church

- Body
- Bride/wife
- Family
- House
- Temple
- Citizens of heaven

Church word study

- Legal or casual gathering
- Christians in a place
- All Christians
- Church
 - Singular
 - Plural
- Local church?



What is the church Galatians 1:1-3

¹Paul, an apostle (not *sent* from men nor through the agency of man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead), ²and all the brethren who are with me,

To the churches of Galatia:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

- Paul's apostleship was not of human origin
- God's power is in Paul's apostleship
- Blessing
 - Grace
 - Peace
- From
 - God our Father
 - The Lord Jesus Christ

What is the church Galatians 1:21-24

²¹Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. ²²I was *still* unknown by sight to the churches of Judea which were in Christ; ²³but only, they kept hearing, “He who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith which he once tried to destroy.” ²⁴And they were glorifying God because of me.

- The church only exists in relation to Christ
- Even former persecutors can become part of the church
- We should praise God for every other believer

What is the church 1 Corinthians 12:13

¹³For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

- Unity in the Spirit
 - Baptism
 - Lord's Supper
- All Christians form one body
- Natural divisions are removed for believers in Christ

The purpose of the Church

- To glorify God
- To edify and mature believers
- Evangelism

The purpose of the church

Ephesians 4:11-13

¹¹And He gave **some** as apostles, and **some** as prophets, and **some** as evangelists, and **some** as pastors and teachers, ¹²for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

- God gives gifts to the church
- Gifts are used for others
- Gifts are given for a purpose
- The work continues until we attain unity
- The goal is Christlikeness

The purpose of the church

Ephesians 4:14-16

¹⁴As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

- The result of God's gift of leaders
 - Maturity
 - Christlikeness
- Christ fits the body together
- Each part has its purpose
- We are built up through love

The structure of the church

1 Timothy 3:1-4

¹It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. ²An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money. ⁴He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity

- Internal characteristics
- External characteristics
 - Managing their home
 - Children in submission

The structure of the church

1 Timothy 3:5-7

⁵(but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?), ⁶and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. ⁷And he must have a good reputation with those outside *the church*, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

- Management of the home shows the abilities of the individual
- There are dangers for a new believer
- Leaders need to have a good reputation with unbelievers
 - Keeps from reproach
 - Keeps from devil's snare

The structure of the church

1 Timothy 3:8-11

⁸Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, ⁹but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach. ¹¹Women must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things.

- Deacons have distinct but similar qualifications
- Deacons are to be tested before they serve
- Qualifications for women who serve

The structure of the church

1 Timothy 3:12-13

¹²Deacons must be husbands of only one wife, and good managers of their children and their own households. ¹³For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

- Benefits of good service
 - High standing
 - Great confidence in the faith

Summary

- The church is in Christ
- We should glorify God for all our fellow Christians
- There is unity in the body of Christ
- Church leaders are gifts from God
- We need to continue to mature and grow into the image of Christ
- Elders and deacons are important for the health of the church
- God has created the diversity of His church for His glory