

## The Church as the Body and Bride of Christ

### 1) What is the church?

The Greek word for church is *ekklesia*, which literally means “the called out ones”. The Christian church is the body and bride of Christ and is comprised of all persons who have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit through saving faith in Jesus Christ. Corporately and individually, its members endeavor to serve and glorify God in worship, prayer, diligent study and application of the Scriptures, evangelism, sanctified living, good works, and observance of the Lord’s Supper and baptism. The primary mission of the church is to take the Gospel to the world and make disciples, teaching them God’s commandments until the Lord returns.

### 2) How does the “local church” differ from the “universal church”?

In the majority of occurrences in the New Testament, the word “church” refers to local church (those “called out” of their homes and businesses to meet together as the body of Christ). However, in some cases, the word is used in a broader sense to mean the collective sum of all believers in Jesus Christ. (For an example, Ephesians 5:25 – “Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it.”)

### 3) When did the church begin?

Matthew 16:18

---

### 4) Does the Bible actually teach that the church is Christ’s “body”?

Ephesians 1:23, Colossians 1:24

---

### 5) In what way is the church the “bride” of Christ?

Isaiah 54:5, Jeremiah 3:14, Hosea 2:19-20, Matthew 22:1-14, John 3:29, Romans 7:4, 2 Corinthians 11:2, Ephesians 5:23, 25-32, Revelation 19:7

---

### 6) Is the Bible clear that Jesus Christ is the head of the church?

Romans 9:5, 1 Corinthians 3:11, 1 Corinthians 11:3, Ephesians 1:22, 5:23

---

### 7) Why is it so important that the church submit to Christ’s Lordship?

John 15:5-6

---

### 8) As individual members of the body of Christ, do we have different functions?

Romans 12:5-8

---

### 9) With all the diversity of gifts, functions and personalities in the church, can we have unity?

Romans 12:5, 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, Galatians 3:28

---

*Summary: The true church is characterized by its acknowledgement of Jesus Christ as the head and accepts and embraces His Holy Word as divinely inspired and authoritative. Those who are truly Christ’s believe in Him, obey Him, worship Him and desire to be His ambassadors by taking the Gospel to the world and working together with the body of Christ to fulfill His purposes.*



Minimum suggested Scripture reading on this subject: Ephesians