

The Church

Ephesians 1:22-23

Introduction: I find it interesting how some folks find the church to be so insignificant. While this may be a very popular view, it is nevertheless ***not*** the view of the New Testament.

The Ephesian letter has a lot to say about the church. You can see how it is important and how it fits into God's scheme of redemption. As noted last time, Jesus is the head of the church. I do not know how it is possible to have a significant head over an alleged insignificant organization.

I. What Is The Church?

- A.** From Greek word whose meaning is: “An assembly of the people, convoked (*called together*) by public proclamation.” In other words, “Those who are ***CALLED OUT.***”
- B.** Its use in the New Testament:
 - 1.** It is used in a general or universal sense to designate all of God's children upon the earth 18 times (***i. e., Acts 2:47; Eph. 1:22.***)
 - 2.** The word “church” is used in reference to a local congregation 92 times (***i. e., 2 Cor. 1:1; 1 Cor. 1:1-2.***)

II. A Brief Look At the Importance Of The Church.

- A.** Jesus said He would build it (***Matt. 16:18.***)
- B.** He is the savior of it (***Eph. 5:23.***)
- C.** He died for it (***Eph. 5:25.***)
- D.** He purchased it with His blood (***Acts 20:28.***)

III. Membership Has Responsibilities.

- A.** Subjection to God (***Heb. 12:9.***)
- B.** To shine in the darkness (***Matt. 5:16; Phil 2:12-16.***)
- C.** “***Ready for every good work***” (***Titus 3:1-2.***)
- D.** Promoting unity among believers (***1 Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:1-3.***)
- E.** To keep oneself pure (***James 1:27.***)
- F.** Bearing fruit (***Col. 1:5-6; Jn. 15:2, 8.***)

IV. The Church Is “Fullness” Of Christ.

- A.** All fullness is said to dwell in Christ (**Col. 1:19**).
- B.** The church at Ephesus was to seek to be filled with His fullness (**Eph. 3:19**).
- C.** Everything that God offers through His Son is available in the church.

Conclusion: When one examines the church and realizes all the benefits available, that one should be moved to desire membership. The church does not have a “closed” membership. It is available to all. Here is what is necessary for membership (**Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 2:38-39**).