

ECCLIESIOLOGY:  
THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH  
Gulf Coast Baptist Church  
Bible Institute

I. Introduction

A. Ecclesiology = The Doctrine of the Church

1. *Ekklesia* = Church
2. - ology - from Logos = word, doctrine, science, (branch of learning, Webster)
3. The doctrine of the Church

B. The English term Church

1. Derived from the Greek word *kuriakos*. *Kurios* - Lord, master. The term means "belonging to the Lord" or "Lordian." Occurs twice in the Greek New Testament, 1 Co. 11:20 - the "Lordian Table," i.e. the table belonging to the Lord, or the Lord's Supper; Rev. 1:10 - the "Lordian Day," i.e. the day belonging to the Lord, the Lord's Day.
2. The basis for the English word.
  - a) The German term "Kirche."
  - b) The Scottish term "Kerk."
  - c) Carried over into English as "Church"
    - (1) Brief History of King James Bible
      - (a) William Tyndale 1494-1536
      - (b) Hampton Court Conference
        - i) The Puritans expressed concerns about the Roman Catholic Church's influence within the state controlled Church of England
        - ii) King James was wary of Puritan desires for a more congregational Church of England - enjoyed the stability of hierarchy
        - iii) King James conceded to new translation because did not like the Geneva Translation → explanatory notes and commentaries (believed that it diminished the divine-right of kings)
      - (c) There was a deliberate and politically motivated reason to enforce the use of the transliterated term Church instead of "assembly" or "congregation"
    - (2) Although the King James Bible is an excellent English translation of the original languages, the political motivations behind the commissioning of the translation has obscured the meaning of *ekklēsia*

C. The Greek word translated Church - *Ekklesia*

1. *Ek* - out, out from; *Kaleo* - to call
2. "A called out assembly"
  - a) Primarily used to refer to the Church, the Body of Christ
  - b) Other uses of *ekklēsia*
    - (1) Acts 7:38 - the assembly of Israel in the wilderness
    - (2) Acts 19:32 - an angry assembly of Ephesians
3. Called out from what?
  - a) The Believer's Identity is to be found in Christ and not in the World
    - (1) World - *Kosmos* - Definition
      - (a) Definition - "...refers to the "order," "arrangement," under which Satan has organized the world of unbelieving mankind upon his cosmic principle of force, greed, selfishness, ambition, and pleasure...is often outwardly religious, scientific, cultured, and elegant; but, seething with national and commercial rivalries and ambitions...and is dominated by Satanic principles." - Scofield Reference Notes (1917 Edition)

- (b) Nature -
  - i) No experiential knowledge of God - Jo. 17:25; 1 Jo. 4:5
  - ii) Morally bankrupt - 2 Pe. 1:4; 2 Pe. 2:20
  - iii) Satanic outlet for sin nature - 1 Jo. 2:15
  - iv) Constantly rebranding itself in an endless array of distractions
- (2) The believer in Christ has been called out of the World
  - (a) "...*they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world*" - Jo. 17:14-18
    - i) See also Gal. 6:14; 1 Pe. 2:11
  - (b) "...*to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints*" - 1 Co. 1:2
- (3) How should the "called out ones" relate to the World?
  - (a) God chose the "called out ones" to remain in the World - Jo. 17:15
  - (b) "Called out ones" can possess things of this World and often have to focus on responsibilities related to this World - Ja. 1:14-15; 1 Co. 7:32
  - (c) "Called out ones" can borrow from the World but are not to abuse it - 1 Co. 7:31
  - (d) "Called out ones" should not agape the World or the things in the World - 1 Jo. 2:15
- b) Most problems within the Church result when believers fail to view one another as "called out ones"
  - (1) Improper perspective that; the Church is a religious institution, religious activity, or a structure where religion is practiced, obscures a critical area of Truth
  - (2) Improper perspective on one's identity leads to a misuse of the World
  - (3) Improper perspective on shared identity leads to division and strife within the Church
  - (4) Major Theme of NT teaching - Unity within the Church