

The Real Thing

LEADER GUIDE



THE REAL THING

STUDY GUIDE | WEEK SEVEN | REAL CHURCH

INTRODUCTION

We like to say "the church isn't a place to attend, but a people to belong to." What do we mean by that. On one hand, we mean that the church is not limited to a building or weekend event, but rather it is a group of people - redeemed followers of Jesus to be specific. *The English word "church" has a number of meanings, most of which are religious. But the Greek word ekklesia—the Bible word translated "church"—is different. Non-Christians in the first century wouldn't have thought of it as a religious word. To them it simply meant "a gathering" or "an assembly."

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 1:24-29

What metaphors and pictures does this passage, and other passages referenced in Sunday's sermon use to describe the church?

Who does the church belong to? Who makes up the church?

NOTES

*From "What is this thing called the church? <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/what-is-this-thing-called-church/>



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DISCUSSION

Why is the foundational principle of "The church belongs to Jesus" so critical?

Practically, for Jesus to be Lord of the church, He must also be Lord of our lives. What are some areas that you find hard to surrender total authority over to Jesus?

What are some key things the church can do or become to regain (or gain) influence in the culture for the sake of the Kingdom?

APPLICATION

People leave churches with little or no thought to the covenantal nature of God's design for a congregation. There are good reasons to leave a church, but bad reasons as well. What should we consider *before* leaving a church?

What would be good reasons to leave a church?

How are you participating in the mission of our church? (specifically)
