



### A Working Definition of the Church ....

*"A group of Christians who assemble as an earthly embassy of Christ's heavenly kingdom,* to affirm one another as his citizens through the ordinances. To proclaim the good news and commands of Christ the King, to display God's own holiness & love through a unified and diverse people; as they follow the teaching and example of the pastors/elders & overseers.

#### ➤ Church History:

- In 325AD, the emperor Constantine asked roughly 300 bishops to meet together in Nicea to bring unity to the church. A man named Arius was propagating that Jesus was God in that He was greater than humans, not not equal to or like God the Father.  
- The result of the meeting produced what we call the Nicene Creed.

#### **Defining the Term Christian :**

~ A Christian is someone who has been truly *converted* by God, who has been saved by the *power* of God, for the display of God's own *glory & power*. (Bro. Tony)

~ A Christian is someone who, first and foremost, has been forgiven of his sin and been reconciled to God the Father through Jesus Christ. (Mark Dever; *What is a Healthy Church?*)

## **According to the Nicene Creed, We get Four Important Words about the Church:**

**I.** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Ephesians 4:4-5)

~ There is one church universally. But the universal church is best seen in the local church.

**II.** \_\_\_\_\_  
(1 Peter 2:9 & Ephesians 1:1&4)

~ The Greek word for holy... (and the Greek for saints) come from the root word *hagios* which literally means holy, \_\_\_\_\_, pure or blameless, and even saints.

~ A needed message for our culture today: We do not need to make the church relevant to the culture. The culture should be conforming to the concepts, patterns, and identity of the church.

*"There is no biblical way to make church relevant to people who have no interest in surrendering their lives."* (Michael Sherrard)

**III.** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Ephesians 4:3)

**IV.** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Ephesians 1:1)

~ "....upon this rock, I will build my church..." (Matt 16:15-18)

*"Even the New Jerusalem is based upon the foundation of the Apostles."* (R.C. Sproul)

~ the Greek word *apostolos* simply means one who was \_\_\_\_\_ out.