



church  hunters



ESSENTIAL MARKS OF THE CHURCH



ONE // HOLY // CATHOLIC // APOSTOLIC

What does the church have to do with me?

40% of Americans who identify as Evangelical Protestants only attend church a few times a year or less

29% of Americans who identify as Evangelical Protestants don't attend or watch church (online or on tv) at all



What does the church have to do with me?

¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and ***on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.***

Matthew 16:16-18 (ESV)



The Church is ONE

What does that mean?

What does that mean for you?



I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:1-16 (ESV)



⁷ But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore it says,
“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,
and he gave gifts to men.”

⁹ (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)

Ephesians 4:1-16 (ESV)



¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

Ephesians 4:1-16 (ESV)



¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Ephesians 4:1-16 (ESV)



The Church is ONE

What does that mean?

What does that mean for you?



The Church is One – What Does That Mean?

⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:4-6 (ESV)



The Church is One – What Does That Mean?

“You can no more multiply churches than you can multiply Gods. Is there one God? Then he has only one church... It is no more possible to split the church than it is possible to split the Godhead.”

John Stott



The Church is One – What Does That Mean?

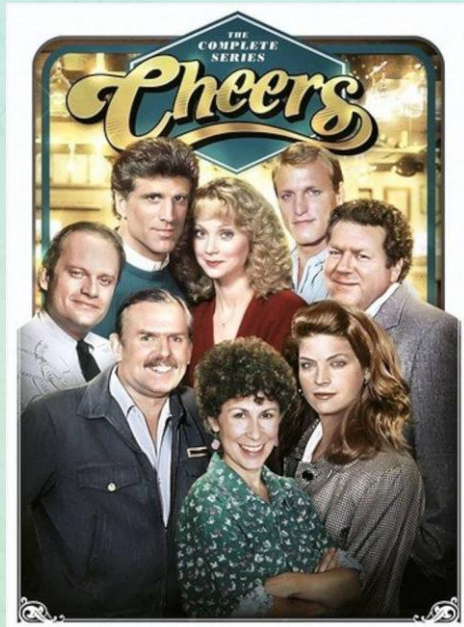
¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

Ephesians 2:13-16 (ESV)



The Church is One – What Does That Mean?

Longing for Family/Fellowship



ESSENTIAL MARKS OF THE CHURCH
ONE / HOLY / CATHOLIC / APOSTOLIC



The Church is One – What Does That Mean?

What about different churches and denominations?



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The Church is One – What Does That Mean?

“The chasm is not between Lutherans and everybody else, or Baptists and everybody else, or Presbyterians and everybody else... the real chasm is between those who have bowed to the living God and His Son Jesus Christ... and those who have not.”

Francis Shaefter



The Church is One – What Does That Mean For You?

You are not meant to do this on your own

“Your walk with God is a community project.” – Paul Tripp

You have a role in maintaining this unity

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called...

eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:1,3



The Church is One – What Does That Mean For You?

Two Things To Help Us Do This – 1. Varied gifts

⁷ But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore it says,

“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,
and he gave gifts to men.”

... ¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists,
the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of
ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain
to the unity of the faith...

Ephesians 4:7-13 (ESV)



The Church is One – What Does That Mean For You?

Two Things To Help Us Do This – 2. New hearts

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:1-3 (ESV)



The Church is One

Jesus has made us one

Jesus calls us to eagerly maintain our unity

He has given us varied gifts and new hearts



The Church is One

...that he might fill all things...to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes... we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ...

Ephesians 4:1-16 (ESV)

