

The Church – Part 1

What is Ecclesiology?

From the Greek word Ekklesia – called out ones
Ecclesiology – theology (or doctrine) of the church.

God creates the church by his Word and Spirit

Matt 16:13-20 – Jesus says, “I will build my church.”

God has always called his people with his word.

God calls from all peoples.

Universal Church and Local Church

Universal Church – Consists of those who are genuine followers of Jesus. It is a single worshipping community that includes all God’s people from the whole world from all walks of life across all time.

Local Church – Each local church is a manifestation of the one universal church, and will embody the nature of that church as the Father’s regenerate family, Christ’s ministering body, and a fellowship sustained by the Holy Spirit.

Invisible Church and Visible Church

Invisible Church – The church as God sees it, the true church.

Visible Church – The church as we see it, a mixed body.

Church Militant and Church Triumphant

Church Militant – those who are still on the earth

Church Triumphant – those who have died and entered glory