

What is the Church?

1. Definition: the church is the community of all _____ believers for all time.
([Ephesians 5:25](#))
2. The Church is both _____ and _____. ([2 Timothy 2:19](#))
 - The invisible church is the church as _____ sees it.
 - The visible church is the church as _____ see it on earth.
3. The Church is _____ and universal.
4. Metaphors for the Church.
 - A. _____ ([2 Corinthians 6:18](#))
 - B. The _____ of Christ ([2 Corinthians 11:2](#))
 - D. An _____ Tree ([Romans 11:17-24](#))
 - E. A _____ of Crops and a _____ ([1 Corinthians 3:6-9](#))
 - F. A _____ ([John 4:35](#))
 - G. A New _____ of Living Stones and a _____ ([1 Peter 2:5](#))
 - H. God's _____ ([Hebrews 3:6](#))
 - I. A Pillar and buttress of the _____ ([1 Timothy 3:15](#))
 - J. The _____ of Christ ([1 Corinthians 12:12-27](#))
5. The Marks of the Church
 - True churches preach the _____.
 - The administration of the _____ (baptism and the Lord's Supper)
6. The Purposes of the Church
 - A. Ministry to God: _____ ([Colossians 3:16](#); [Ephesians 5:19](#))
 - B. Ministry to Believers: _____ ([Colossians 1:28](#); [Ephesians 4:12-13](#))
 - C. Ministry to the World: _____ ([Matthew 28:19](#))

Discussion Questions

1. When you hear the word "church," what comes to mind first—a building, a worship service, a local congregation, or God's people? Why?
2. Why is it important to distinguish between the visible church and the invisible church? What practical implications does that have for how we view church membership?
3. Which biblical metaphor for the church (family, bride, body, temple, field, vine, etc.) resonates most with you? Why does that image speak to you personally?
4. The church is described as the Body of Christ. What happens when one part of the body refuses to serve or becomes disconnected from the rest? Have you seen examples of this?
5. John Calvin identified two marks of a true church: the faithful preaching of God's Word and the proper administration of baptism and the Lord's Supper. Why are these marks so foundational?
6. In a culture where many churches differ in style and tradition, how can we distinguish between essential biblical doctrines and personal preferences?
7. If someone asked you, "Why should I be an active part of a local church instead of just following Jesus on my own?" how would you answer based on what you've learned in this lesson?