



The Mission of the Church

Partially adapted from the FireBible article, "The Church," by Danny Duvall.

The Church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of its great commission.

Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the Church of the Firstborn.

Since God's purpose for mankind is to seek and to save those who are lost, to be worshipped by mankind, to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, and to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world, the primary reason for being of the Assemblies of God (as part of the Church) is to be:

- an agency of God for evangelizing the world
- a corporate body in which people may worship God
- a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son

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a people who demonstrate God’s love and compassion for all the world

The Assemblies of God exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to this “reason for being” in the New Testament apostolic pattern by teaching and encouraging believers to be baptized in the Holy Spirit, an experience that:

- enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs
- adds a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God
- enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit, gifts, and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ and care for the poor and needy of the world.¹

¹ “The Church and Its Mission,” The Assemblies of God, <https://ag.org/Beliefs/Statement-of-Fundamental-Truths#10> (Accessed August 25, 2017).

The Church article gives a deeper understanding of this truth:

Matthew 16:18 (ESV) 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.

The Church of Jesus Christ is one of the few enduring endeavors of your life. The following teaching on the *Mission of the Church* will help you understand what makes the church so impactful, and identify what should be your contribution to its mission.

The Greek word *Ekklesia* (church) refers to a meeting of God's people **called** out and summoned together.

It comes from a word that means *impartation of the King's rule spread into the people*. As we gather together the King's will and desires are **dispersed** throughout our lives and communities.

Note: Simply put, the Church is a community of people who come together as **citizens** of God's kingdom to worship their Lord.

Ephesians 2:19 (ESV) So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

The word church can refer to the local assembly or the **universal** church.

Here are some points describing what the Church is:

1. A company of believers whose redemptions is made possible by Christ's death and resurrection.

1 Peter 1:18–19 (ESV) ¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

The Church no longer belongs to this earth; it is like a pilgrim waiting to find his/her home.

Hebrews 11:13 (ESV) These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

Each church member's primary goal is to cultivate a personal relationship with the living God.

1 Peter 2:5 (ESV) you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

2. The Church is a people called out. 'Ekklaeo' is out or called. Separation from the world and into God's kingdom is inherent to the church's nature.

2 Corinthians 6:17–18 (ESV) ¹⁷ Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, ¹⁸ and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.”

As a member of the Church you are a moving **temple** of God and of the Holy Spirit. You are an agent always ready for service.

1 Corinthians 3:16 (ESV) Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

3. The Church is the body of Christ. This image indicates that no true church exists apart from the vital union of its members in Christ.

1 Corinthians 6:15 (ESV) Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never!

4. The Church is the bride of Christ. This marriage image emphasizes the devotion and faithfulness of the Church to Christ, as well as Christ's love and intimacy with His Church.

2 Corinthians 11:2 (ESV) For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

5. The Church is a spiritual fellowship (*koinonia*).

2 Corinthians 13:14 (ESV) The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

This fellowship includes the indwelling of the Spirit, the unity of the Spirit, and the baptism in the Spirit. This fellowship is to demonstrate observable love and care for one another.

John 13:34–35 (ESV) ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

6. The Church is a spiritual ministry (*diakonia*). We serve through gifts given by the Holy Spirit.

Romans 12:6 (ESV) Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith;

7. The Church is an army involved in spiritual conflict.

The church is in a spiritual struggle against Satan and sin. The Spirit, with which the church is filled, is like a warrior wielding the living Word of God, delivering people from Satan's dominion and having the ability to combat and overcome every dark power at work in the world.

Ephesians 6:12 (ESV) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:17 (ESV) and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

8. The Church is the pillar and ground of truth.

1 Timothy 3:15 (ESV) if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.

Jude 3 (ESV) Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.

9. The Church has a future hope, which is Christ's return.

John 14:3 (ESV) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

10. The Church is both invisible and visible.

It is invisible in that it is united with all believers all over the world. It is visible because it is built of local congregations containing both faithful overcomers and professed Christians who are actually spiritually dead and/or lukewarm.

Revelation 2:2 (ESV) I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false.

Revelation 2:5 (ESV) Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.

11. The Church at its core is full of “wrinkles,” or imperfections.

Ephesians 5:27 (ESV) so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS:

Read **Matthew 16:18-19 (ESV)** and answer the following from the *FireBible* study notes.²

If you do not have a *FireBible*, [you may purchase one here](#). However, these study questions can still be reviewed and discussed without the benefit of the *FireBible*.

1. Upon what confession (figuratively called *this rock*) does Jesus build His Church?
2. The name Peter means “a small _____,” but the Church is built on a huge _____.
3. Jesus is the _____ on which the Church is built. Peter and the other believers are _____ of the Church.

Comment: The authority that Jesus gave Peter to bind or loose people and powers is also given by Jesus to all the other apostles (Matthew 18:18). Likewise, Jesus

² Quentin McGhee, *Unlocking the Treasures of Your Fire Bible: Resources for Spiritual Understanding*, Springfield, MO, Life Publishers and Faith & Action Series, 2012, Page 196.

gives authority to all believers (including you) to bind or loose people and powers (Matthew 28:18-20)

4. Does Scripture teach that God gave Peter more authority than He gave the other apostles?
5. Does Matthew 16:18 mean that evil will not overcome any believers or churches? Explain.
6. What does Matthew 16:18 mean?
7. What do the “keys” represent in Matthew 16:19?
8. What are five things that church leaders and believers do with the authority God gives us (Matthew 16:19)?

Read the *FireBible* article: *The Church*. Answer the following:³

9. The Greek word for *church* (pronounced *eck-kleh-SEE-uh*) refers to a people who are _____ and _____ together.

³ Quentin McGhee, *Unlocking the Treasures of Your Fire Bible: Resources for Spiritual Understanding*, Springfield, MO, Life Publishers and Faith & Action Series, 2012, Page 197.

10. The word *church* can mean a _____, or all believers together, called the _____.
11. The Church is God's people, redeemed by _____. The Church has a _____ with God.
12. From what is the Church called out?
13. The Church is called to be the _____ of God and the Holy Spirit.
14. As the body is united to its head, any true church _____.
15. As a husband and wife are faithful to one another, _____.
16. How does the Church show that it is a spiritual fellowship?
17. How is the Church able to minister?
18. What does the spiritual warfare of the Church involve?

19. As a foundation supports a building, the Church supports _____.

20. What is the basis for the Church's future hope?

Comment: When we refer to the invisible Church, we mean that we cannot always see whether people are true believers. Only God sees what is in the hearts of people. So, the true Church is invisible to us.

21. Does the visible church – all the people we see who come to the local church – include only true believers? Explain.