



What is the Church?

Adapted from “The Big House” series by Scott Erickson.

The Milan Cathedral – Duomo di Milano – is the cathedral church of Milan, Italy. It is the set church of the Archbishop Angelo Scola. Its massive construction began in 1386 and took six centuries to complete. Dedicated in 1965, it is one of the largest cathedrals in the world seating 40,000. Its beauty and elaborate gothic style makes it one of the most famous buildings in the world. It is the largest gothic cathedral.

When you see a beautiful structure like this, what do you call it. Do you call it a church? Some define and describe the church as a building. To you, what is the church?

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COURAGE

C1: When you hear the word church, what comes to your mind?

C2: Describe your church experience growing up. Make sure to include the role your grandfather and father played in your church experience.

C3: What is your current perspective on church? On a scale of 1-4 with 1 being very well and 4 being not very well, how well are you engaged in the church? Write out a plan to improve.

STRENGTH

S1: The church has an exclusive entry system. Read and answer the following.

Ephesians 2:12 (ESV)

- From this verse, what three things does Paul want us to know before we come into the house? Why?

S2: The only way into the house is by a defined access code. Read and answer the following.

Ephesians 2:13–14 (ESV)

Ephesians 2:18–19 (ESV)

Romans 5:1–2 (ESV)

- From these verses, what are three things we can learn about coming into the house?

S3: One New Testament word for the church is EKKLESIA. It refers to an assembly of people called out of the world and called together for a very specific purpose. Read and answer the following.

Ephesians 2:20–22 (ESV)

1 Peter 1:18–19 (ESV)

1 Peter 2:5 (ESV)

- From these verses, what are three things you can learn about the church?



- On a scale of 1-4 with 1 being very well and 4 being not very well, rate yourself on how well you understand what the Bible teaches about the church. Write out a plan to improve your Biblical knowledge about church.

ENDURANCE

E1: The Biblical account of Jesus and his appearance to the men on the Emmaus Road is a powerful demonstration of how Jesus wants to ministry to people who gather together in His Name. Read and answer the following.

Luke 24:13–16 (ESV)

- From these verses, what can you know about the effect Jesus will have on the church?

E2: These disciples failed to identify the Presence of Christ in their daily life. Read and answer the following.

Luke 24:25–26 (ESV)

- From these verses, what are three things that kept them from seeing who was walking beside them.
- What is keeping you from seeing Jesus walking with you every day? Write out a plan to improve your daily walk with Jesus.

E3: In the church we celebrate the ever-present Lord. The Disciples wanted Jesus to stay with them. Read and answer the following.

Luke 24:20–32 (ESV)

- From these verses, what can you glean about the effect of being in Jesus' presence?