



## **Biblical Pictures of the Church**

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

St. Peter’s Basilica – San Pietro in Vaticano – is one of the largest churches in the world with the capacity of 60,000 people. It stands on the site where Peter the Apostle was crucified and buried for his faith. It was originally founded by Constantine in 324 AD. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, it was rebuilt by Bramante, Bernini and Michelangelo. The shrine to St. Peter is still the central focus of the Catholic church today.

The dome of St. Peters Basilica was designed by Michelangelo. The façade is topped by 13 statues in travertine – the 12 disciples and Jesus.

Charles Dickens said, “The first burst of the interior, in all its expansive majesty and glory – and most of all looking up into the dome – is a sensation never to be forgotten.”

There are several pictures from the Word of God that describe and define the church.

## **COURAGE**

**C1:** Describe your church building when you were a child.

**C2:** On a scale of 1-4 with 1 being very high and 4 being not very high, rate where you would place the church building in the scheme of Christianity. Why?

**C3:** Make a list of ten things the church is.

## STRENGTH

**S1:** Foundation in everything is essential to success. Read and answer the following.

**Luke 6:47–49 (ESV)**

**1 Corinthians 3:11 (ESV)**

**Ephesians 2:20 (ESV)**

- From these verses, what are three truths about the church?

**S2:** The purpose of the true church is to declare the fact that Jesus Christ is Lord, the Word became flesh, that He is the Messiah, God's Son, the only sacrifice for sins. Read and answer the following.

**Romans 9:33 (ESV)**

**Matthew 16:18 (ESV)**

**1 Peter 2:5 (ESV)**

**1 Peter 2:9 (ESV)**

- From these verses, what are three foundations of the church?
- What does "A Royal Priesthood" mean to you?
- On a scale of 1-4 with 1 being very well and 4 being not very well, rate yourself on how good of a priest you are. Write out a plan to improve your priesthood.

**S3:** God continues to build the church. Read and answer the following.

**Ephesians 2:21–22 (ESV)**

**Galatians 4:19 (ESV)**

**1 Kings 6:7 (ESV)**

- From these verses, what are three things one can know about God constructing His church?

## ENDURANCE

**E1:** The church is more than bricks and mortar. Read and answer the following.

### 1 Corinthians 12:12–13 (ESV)

- From these verses, what can you glean about the church?
  
- What comes to your mind when Paul compares the church to a living body?

**E2:** In the same way your human body has something in it that brings life, so does the Body of Christ. Read and answer the following.

### Leviticus 17:11 (ESV)

### 1 Corinthians 6:15–17 (ESV)

- From these verses, what are three things you glean about the church?
  
- How does the blood of Jesus keep the church alive?

**E3:** In His church, a loving, tender, spirit must prevail. It is in that kind of atmosphere His power is available. Read and answer the following.

### 1 Corinthians 12:14–25 (ESV)

### 1 Corinthians 1:9–10 (ESV)

- From these verses, what are three things you can glean about our function in union with Christ and each other.

- On a scale of 1-4 with 1 being very well and 4 being not very well, rate yourself on how well you treat others in the church. Write out a plan to improve.