

THE “WHO TOLD YOU?” SERIES

A STUDY IN DISCERNING THE VOICES OF OUR DAY

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

WHO TOLD YOU ABOUT THE CHURCH ?

discerning the voices of our day and knowing what to do about what you hear

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Church, Community, Doctrine, End Times, Disciple-Making, Truth.

Introduction and overview to the series

Church, Heaven, Eternity, Salvation, Faith, Works, Community.

What is the Church? Why did God create the Church?

What is the Church to be doing? What will become of the Church?

2 Peter 1:5-9

But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

The church is not the source of the scriptures,

But the Church is the guarding, the defender, the proclaimer of the Scriptures.

(it has always been the case that the church would be the sower, the distributor, the giver of the Good News.

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

What makes a church a real New Testament Church?

It is the mouthpiece of God to the world. It is a nursery for new born again babes. It is the bride in all her holy splendor. It is the cultural warrior against darkness. It is the promoter of truth and the exposor of lies.

The church is a warrior princess living in enemy occupied territory.

We are living in a time when the church is being reduced, marginalized and rejected.

John 15:18-19

“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

“WHO TOLD YOU ABOUT THE CHURCH”

1.) What is the church ?

1a.) Church is a Christ-Centered community

by community I mean what the Bible teaches as a “society” or “culture, association, or civilization.”

The Church of Jesus on Earth is the Ordained Custodian of His Word.

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The church, by design, is an extremely simple thing.

Church: grk: *ejkk1hsi÷a ekklesia, ek-klay-see´-ah;*

The gathering or those who assemble. The meeting of those called out of and away from the world unto Christ. An assembly of souls (redeemed).

We know that the Church is referred to in the Bible as being a great mystery

Ephesians 5:32

This is a great **mystery**: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

mysterion, *moos-tay´-ree-on*; from the root **mu/w muo** meaning to shut the mouth or to keep quiet about); a secret or “mystery” (through the idea of an imposed silence, to keep a secret until an appointed time.

And with that definition – comes a requirement,

That those who are of the church, we will have our **differences**, we will have our **challenges**, we will see certain things **differently** at times – but we all share in the unifying factor regarding the doctrines of God.

Romans 8:15-17

For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” **16** The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, **17** and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ,

The church is a supernatural, God-ordained

gathering of people who have been redeemed by the atoning work of Jesus Christ by His cross. The Church are those who have been called out from this world and have been marked by the Holy Spirit who has placed the believer into the Body of Christ, His true Church.

Ephesians 4:7,11-16a

:7 But to each one of us (church) grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift... **:11** And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, **12** for the equipping of the saints (church) for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, (church) **13** till we all (church) come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, (church) to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; **14** that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, **15** but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head Christ **16** from whom the whole body, (church) joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, (church)

The Bible teaches that the church is both a transcendent and local community of the followers of Jesus Christ.

His care is so pronounced for the church that Jesus' last words are those to His 7 churches in Asia Minor in the book of Revelation!

Ephesians 1:22-23

And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to **the church**, :23 **which is His body**, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

**The body of Christ is made up of two dynamics
which are one and the same (1x1=1)**

1) There is the **universal (worldwide) church** which consists of all those who have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. **“For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink” (1 Corinthians 12:13).** This verse says that anyone who believes is part of the body of Christ and has received the Spirit of Christ as evidence. The universal church is all those who have received salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

2) There is the **local church** as described **in Galatians 1:1-2: “Paul, an apostle ... and all the brothers with me, to the churches in Galatia.”** Here we see that in the province of Galatia there were **many churches**—what we call local churches. A Baptist church, Methodist church, etc., is not the church, as in the universal church—but rather **is a local church**, a local body of believers.

The **universal (worldwide) church** is comprised of those who belong to Christ and those who have trusted Him for salvation. These of the **universal (worldwide) church** are to seek fellowship and edification within a **local church**.

Simply Put,

The Church is the Body of Jesus Christ, He being it's Head. Jesus leads, guides, provides, instructs, and develops the church body toward maturity.

R. Kent Hughes

The Church is a living entity and is subject to all the dynamics of any living entity. The church is alive and moving and in a constant state of development and growth. These energies all come together to make for a powerful, effective, fluid and exciting experience.

1 Timothy 3:14-15

These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; :15 but if I am delayed, *I write* so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in **the house of God**, which is the **church** of the living God, the **pillar** and **ground** of **the truth**.

The House of God = The Church, Is not a building, It's a "Pillar"

"The Church is also the "Ground" Of The Truth. The Church is to be Known as the Place and People of The Truth."

To determine if you are in a true, biblical church or not;
You must first judge the churches teachings, It's influence, it's witness, it's impact, its worship, it's obedience, **and most important – it's love for Christ and others.**

The Church is a Christ-Centered Community.
We don't often think of the Church as being a Civilization.

We have our own laws, constitution, government, representation and Leadership all under a ruling and reigning King, King Jesus.

British Governor of Massachusetts, Hugh Percy,
*"If you ask an American who is his master, he'll tell you he has none.
And he has no governor but Jesus Christ."*

Meaning this; that the church is to be Christ-centered in it's **affections**. Christ centered in its **witness**. Christ centered in its **conduct**. What ever the church does, it does it to the **glory** of the Father and to the **exaltation** of Jesus Christ and by the **power** of the Holy Spirit

An Example of "Church" Happening

Acts 2:1-2

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

An Example of "Church" Happening

Acts 2:46-47

So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

An Example of “Church” Happening

Acts 14:27

Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.

An Example of “Church” Happening

Acts 20:7-8

Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. 8 There were many lamps in the upper room where they were gathered together.

An Example of “Church” Happening

Ephesians 2:17-22

And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. 18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. 19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

It’s a Divine, Supernatural, Spiritual Community Where Jesus is Lord and Christ, Head and Master.

Colossians 1:15-18

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, 16 for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can’t see - such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. 17 He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. 18 Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything.

...and so He deserves our all.

Colossians 3:17

And *whatever* you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

“WHO TOLD YOU ABOUT THE CHURCH”
WHAT IS THE CHURCH ?

1b.) Church is a Christ-Centered family

“The true body of believers, the church is made up of people who understand that they now belong to the family of God. Being in this family means that we strive to be unified in and through the pursuit of God’s will for our lives.”

“A local church is a gathering of those who (1) profess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord, (2) who have been baptized and (3) who have organized themselves to worship (4) effectively influence others for the cause of Christ.”

- Dr. Charles Ryrie

Colossians 2:2-3

That your hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of **the full assurance** of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

“WHO TOLD YOU ABOUT THE CHURCH”
WHAT IS THE CHURCH ?

1c.) Church is a Christ-Centered manifestation of faith

“The true body of believers, the church is made up of people who willingly come to present themselves before God with the willful intent to live out their faith.”

Romans 1:8

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

How Does This Happen ?

Jude 1

Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James,
To those who are (1) **called**, (2) **sanctified by God** the Father,
and (3) **preserved** in Jesus Christ:

>>>>>> Preserved in Jesus Christ <<<<<<<

Matthew 16:18

I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

God has ordained His church to legislate His will
in the spiritual realm.

The Church is God's Power on Earth.

“If a church has no God ordained authority then it is not His church.
It might be a man's church. It might be a movement's church, it might be a popular
church - but it's not His church.”

With Jesus Christ at the Helm – a church cannot be defeated.

If men are at the helm – that church is already defeated. It might not have fallen over
yet. But it's powerless and unprotected and doomed.

Is the church being the church in the earth today?

Acts 1:8

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be
witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria,
and to the end of the earth.”

**The Reason for the Cross / The Work of the Christ /
The Need to make the Call.**

End of Study

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