

The Church: More Than a Building

Today we begin a new series on the Church. We'll define it, destroy some misconceptions about it, tell God's purpose / goals for it, discuss signs of a healthy vs. unhealthy church, and encourage us all to consider if we are doing the part that we should be doing.

The church is not the first unique group of people selected for a special purpose, see Dt. 4:1-8, 7:6-8 to I Pt. 1:15, 2:9.

The church (ekklesia = *assembly*) can refer to the "universal church" (all believers, as we will mostly be using the term today) or a "local church" (believers at one location)

Big misconceptions about the church--the Church is not . . .

- 1) --or you'll get confused about the end times!
- 2) --or the church will become a business!
- 3) --or you'll be eternally lost!

Some various images used for the Church—it is . . .

a flock of sheep, field, living temple, God's residence, bride of Christ, pillar of truth, a man, Christ's body

God's goal for the Church . . .

- ◆ Eph. 2:19-22
- ◆ Eph. 4:11-3
- ◆ Eph. 5:25-28

. . . and why are you here today?

