

Colossians 1:27-28

27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.



The Church

Philip Mayhue

Outline

- Historical Context
 - Who
 - What
 - When
 - Where
 - Why

Historical Context of the Church

- 4 phases
- Phase 1: Jesus until 1054
- Phase 2: 1054 – 1500
- Phase 3: 1500 – 1800
- Phase 4 1800 – Present

Phase 1

Jesus until 1054

- Empires were growing larger and in 1054, the Christian belief had a “great schism”.
- Western Europe Christians changed their creed to say the Holy Spirit proceeds the Father and the Son. Previously they only said it proceeds the Father alone.
- Eastern European Christians thus split and formed Eastern Orthodox Christianity while the Western Europeans became Roman Catholic

Phase 2

1054 - 1500

- Eastern Orthodox Christianity didn't go through too many changes after 11th Century.
- The following slides discuss the Western Christians.
- This period was marked with crusades from the West trying to unify the East, but all attempts failed. Many smaller divisions occurred in the process.

Phase 3

1500 – 1800

- Printing Press invented in 1450
- Known as the Reformation.
- 1519 Martin Luther disagreed with the Catholic Church and wrote a 95-point theses about his disputes. The printing press helped spread the Bible and literacy. Martin Luther also used this to his advantage.
- 1525 Luther was excommunicated from the church and started his own faith known as Lutheranism. He believed on “Faith Alone”
- Also during this time a lot of other Christian Denominations developed.
- Calvinism, Anabaptism, Anglicanism, Mennonite, Amish, Baptist

Phase 4

1800 – Present

- After the USA was formed, many Protestant Denominations formed.
- 1832 the Disciples of Christ were formed.
- 1906 first time a US census identified the Church of Christ as a separate church. It was split from the Disciples of Christ.
- Major differences: The Church of Christ said any practices not present in accounts of New Testament worship were not permissible in the church. Disciples of Christ said any practices not expressly forbidden could be considered

Who is the Church?

YOU

Ephesians 2:18-22

- 18For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Colossians 1:18 – 20

- 18And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. 19For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

What is the Church?

- The church according to scripture is the members. Not a physical building. A church building is a place of worship, fellowship, and praise. But the church is not a what, it is a who!



When is Church?

- The tradition of holding church services on Sunday has several reasons:
- In honor of the Lord's resurrection: Christ rose from the dead on a Sunday, which became a significant day for early Christians.
- Sabbatarianism: The view that one day of the week should be reserved for religious observance and worship, as required by Old Testament laws regarding the Sabbath.

Where is the Church?

19644 Leitersburg Pike
Hagerstown, MD 21742

Matthew 18: 20

For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

Why Church?

Hebrews 10:24 – 25

24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,
25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

- Acts 2:42
- And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Final Considerations

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Proverbs 27:17 – 18

- 17 Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another. 18 Whoever tends a fig tree will eat its fruit, and he who guards his master will be honored.
- Remember History

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Conclusion

“I go to church because there I have the privilege to worship and associate with so many dedicated people who endeavor in many ways to help me strengthen my faith and desire to be a better follower of Him who gave His life for me. There is no substitute.”

- Herman L. Stockslager