



WHAT IS THE
CHURCH?

MATTHEW 16:18

And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build **My church**, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES THAT WE NEED TO KNOW...

What did Jesus mean when he said, “On this rock I will build my church?”

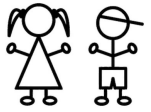
What do we know about the church?

What did Paul mean when he addressed his letter, “to the church of God which is at Corinth?”

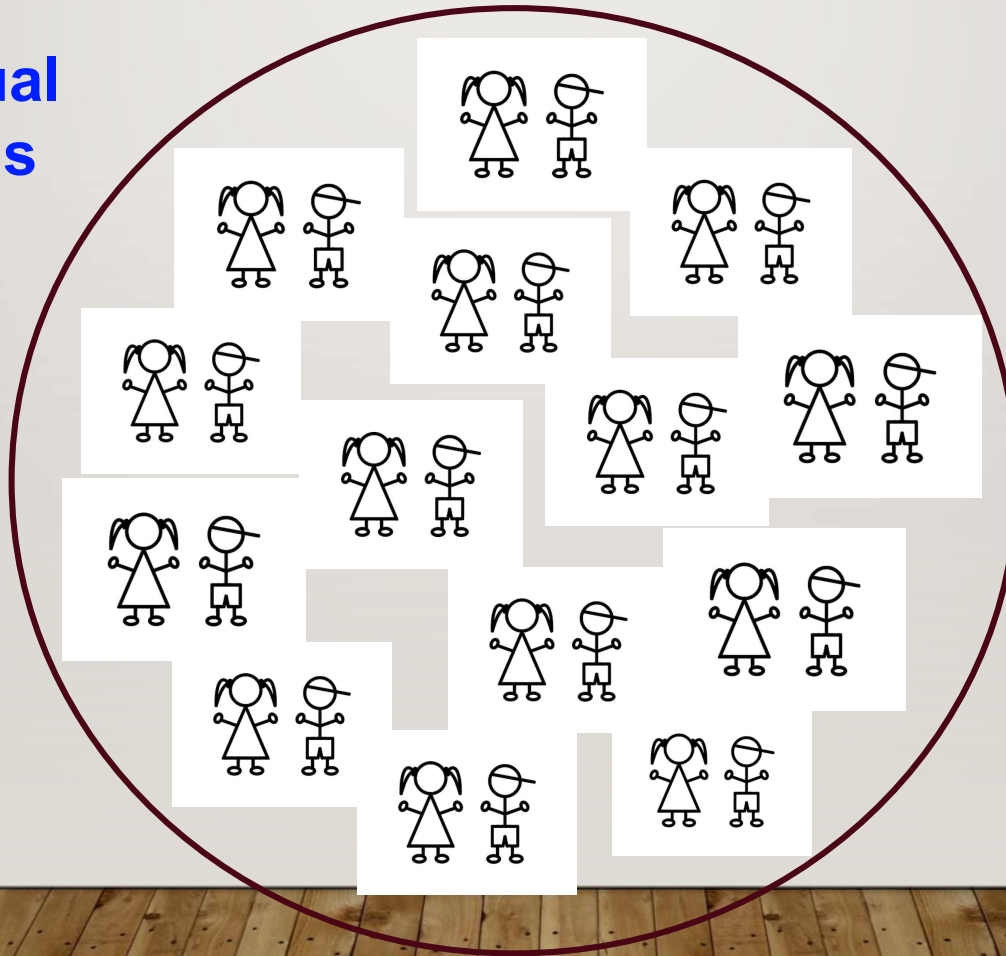
CHRIST'S ONE CHURCH

- “There is One Body” (Eph. 4:4)
- His Body is His church (Eph. 1:22 – 23) “And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.”
- Col. 1:18 “And he is the head of the body, the church.”

CHURCH OF CHRIST (UNIVERSAL)



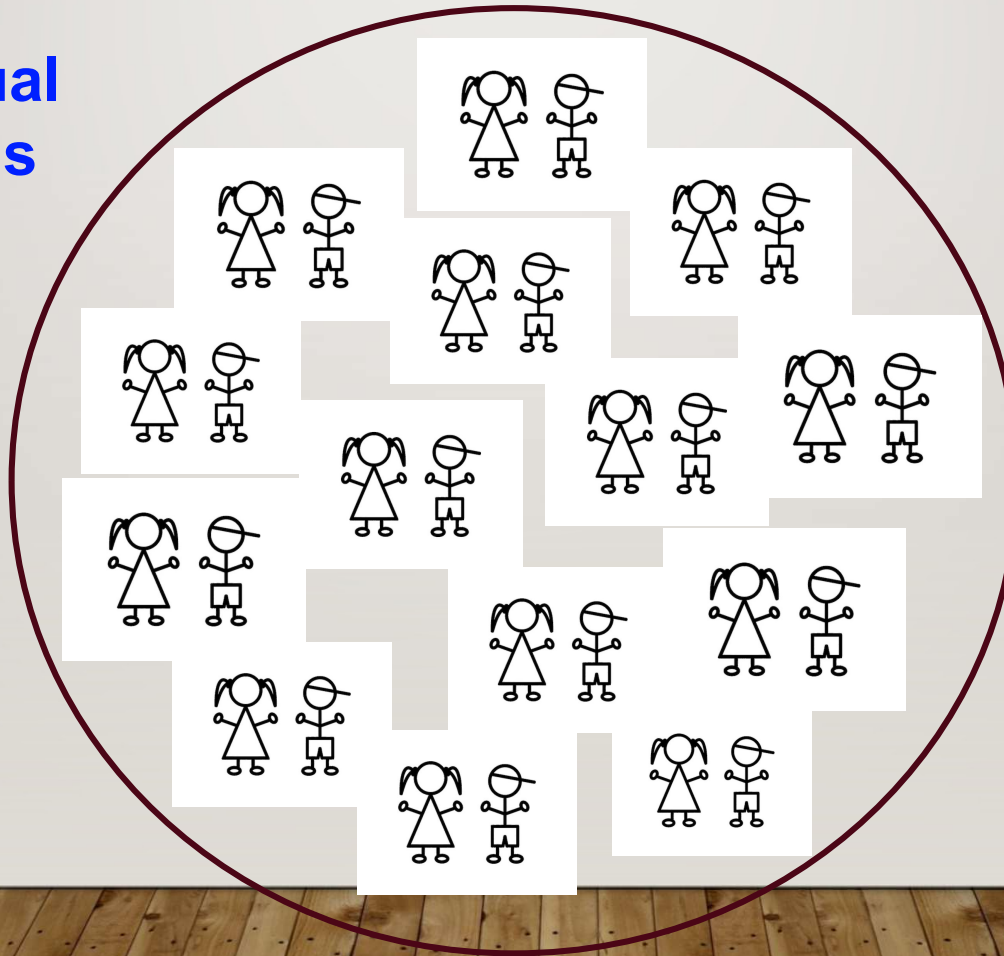
= Individual
Christians



CHURCH OF CHRIST (LOCAL)



**= Individual
Christians**



Elders

Deacons

Saints

***Each One
Different...***

***Together We
Make Up A
Local Church***

NAMES OF THE CHURCH

- Church of God - Corinth
- Church of the Thessalonians
- Churches of Christ (Romans 16:16)
- The Way (Acts 24:14 – 16)





WHAT IS THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH?

- Church = Saved Souls
- Mission = Save Other Souls

HOW THE CHURCH WORKS

- What is the Mission of the church? – Save Souls
- Does the Universal Church work?
 - ***Not as an assembly or organized group.***
 - ***We as individual followers of Christ:***
 - **Share our faith in hope of bringing others to the Lord,**
 - **Behave in harmony with the gospel (letting our lights shine),**
 - **Act in good works which Christ has prepared for us..**

MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY

- **Matthew 18: 15 – 17** “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.
- 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to **the church**. And if he refuses to listen even to **the church**, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.”

SHARING THE MESSAGE

- **Acts 8:4-5** – Christians busy sharing their faith... preaching Christ.
- **Phil. 4:15-16** - Local Church supporting preachers.
 - May be the local evangelist, or
 - Missionaries
- **1 Thess. 1:8** – For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out.

NEW ASSIGNMENTS

- Acts 2:42 “And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”
- Apostles teaching: Why was this important?
 - (1 Cor. 4:17; 7:17; 14:37; Romans 6:17; 2 Tim. 1:13)
- Fellowship: a spiritual sharing in the work God gave us.
- Breaking of Bread: Acts 2:42, 46; 20:7; 1 Cor. 11: 17 – 34, cf. 22, 34

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- Prayers – Singing – Acts 12; 1 Cor. 14:26; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16)

EDIFY ONE ANOTHER

1 Corinthians 14:26

(NASB) What is the outcome then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

EDIFY ONE ANOTHER

Ephesians 4:11-16

- God's Gifts for our Edification (vv. 11-12)
- God desires: Unity (vv. 3, 5, 13)

Growth (vv. 13-14)

- How? "Speaking the Truth in love" (v. 15)
- Who is Involved? (v. 16)

BENEVOLENCE

- *Local churches cared for their own needy:*
 - **Acts 2:44-45; 4:34; 6:1-8**
- *Local churches sent relief to needy saints elsewhere:*
 - **1 Cor. 16:1-3**
 - **2 Cor. 8:1-6**

BENEVOLENCE

- *Local churches sent relief to needy saints elsewhere:*
“At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints.”
- Rom 15:26 For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem.
- Rom 15:27 For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings.”

1 PETER 5:1-3

(NKJV) “The elders who are **among you** I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: 2 Shepherd the flock of God **which is among you**, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; 3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;”



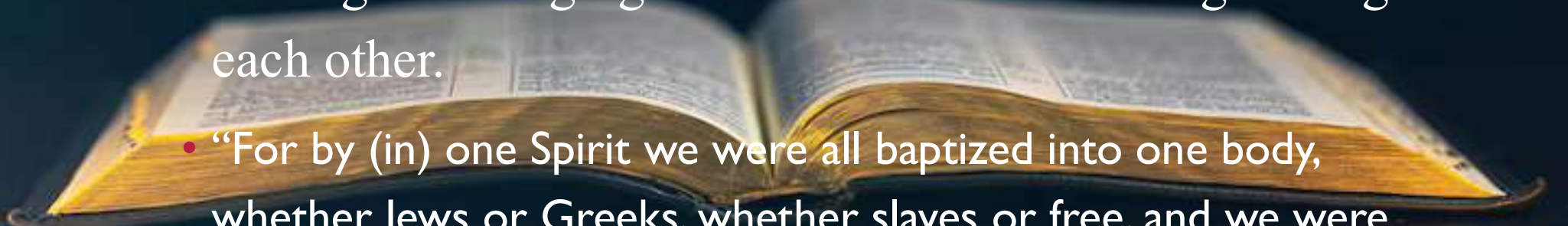
ACTS 20:28

(NKJV) “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, **among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers**, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”



REVIEW

- Christ adds obedient believers to His Church.
- Christians came together in local assemblies as directed by the apostles to accomplish God – assigned work.
- They worked and worshiped as the apostles instructed.
- Their goal: bringing others to Christ and strengthening each other.



- “For by (in) one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.” (1 Cor. 12:13)