

Role of God's Family

Every family has its role.

Roles are defined by the charter
of the household

Church?

- What did Jesus build?
- What did Jesus buy?
- What did Jesus cleanse?



A special People

- (Eph.1:3-5)
 - “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed **us** with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, just as He **chose us** in Him **before the foundation of the world**, that **we** would be **holy and blameless** before Him. In love He **predestined us** to adoption **as sons through Jesus Christ** to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,” (NASB)

Fullness of Purpose

- “*I pray that the eyes of **your heart** may be enlightened, so that **you will know** what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of **His inheritance in the saints**, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward **us who believe**. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand...*” (Eph. 1:18 – 20)

Fullness of Purpose

- “...far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection 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.” (Eph. 1:20 – 23)

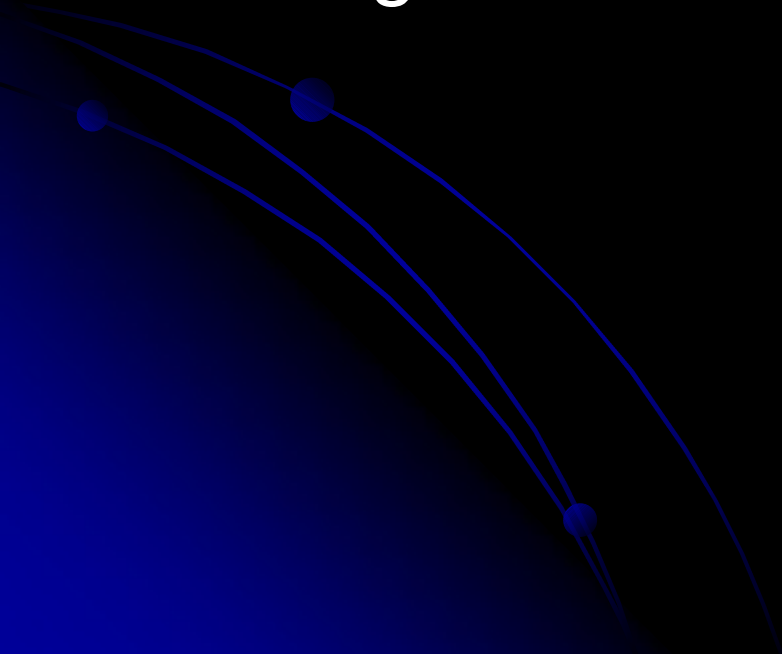
Filled Up in Christ

- “so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; *and* that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.”
- Eph.3:17 – 19

Christ Gave Gifts

- “And He gave some as **apostles**, and some as **prophets**, and some as **evangelists**, and some as **pastors and teachers**, for the **equipping** of the **saints** for the **work of service**, to the **building up** of the **body** of Christ; until **we all attain** to the unity of the **faith**, and of the **knowledge** of the **Son of God**, to a **mature man**, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the **fullness of Christ.**”
- Eph. 4:11 - 13

Organization of the Church

- **Jesus appointed other servants (Eph.4:11)**
 - **Apostles** (To speak for Him)
Matt. 16:18; 18:18; John 16:12-15
 - **Prophets** (These together with the apostles gave us the charter—the New Testament.)
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“Called out People”

- “So then **you are** no longer strangers and aliens, but you are **fellow citizens** with the saints, and are of **God's household**, having been built on the foundation of the **apostles and prophets**, **Christ Jesus** Himself being the corner *stone*, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.” (Eph. 2:19 – 22)

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 - **Prophets** (These together with the apostles gave us the charter—the New Testament.)
 - **Evangelists** to preach the gospel.
 - **Pastors and Teachers** All working together to change those who are saved into the image of Christ (Eph. 4:12--16).

Two Uses of “church”

“*Universal*”

Christ over all

Each *individual* is “added to the church” as he is saved by obeying Christ (Acts 2:47).

The total *number* of these saved *individuals* is the *church universal*.

The *universal church* has no *organization* by which all of the saved can act together.

The universal church is *not* to be thought of as composed of all the local churches, but of all the *saved individuals*.

“*Local*”

Elders Acts 20:28; Ph’p.1:1

When a number of the saved in any locality agree to work and worship together in a scripturally organized way, a local *church* exists in that place.

The only *organization* of the *church* in the New Testament is the local church with its elders, deacons and saints.

Each church was a separate entity with its own adequate, all-sufficient arrangement.

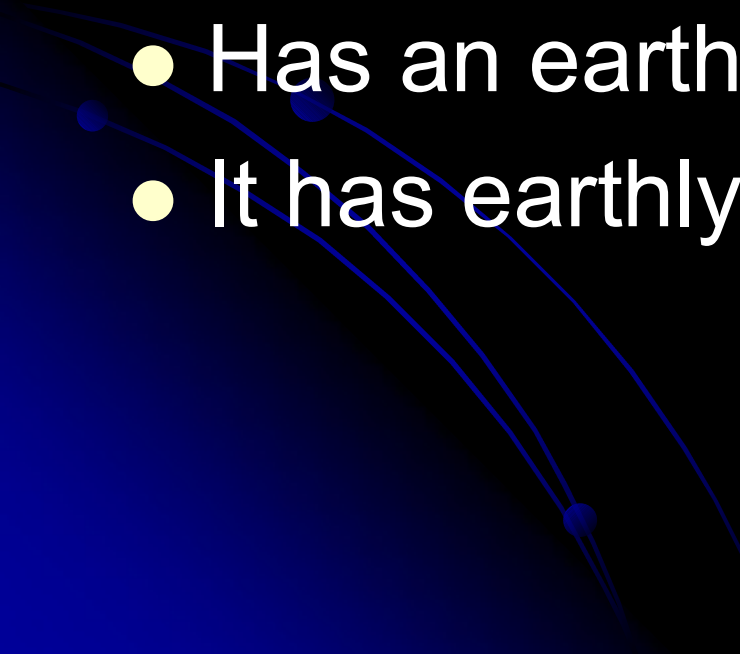
Characteristics of the church

“Universal Usage”

- Has only One Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4)
- Satan cannot prevail against (Mt. 16:18)
- Has no earthly assembly (Heb. 12:23)
- Has no earthly oversight
- Has no earthly treasury
- It has no earthly collective work to do.

Characteristics of the church

“Local Usage”

- Has earthly shepherds (1 Peter 5:2-3)
 - Satan can prevail against (Rev. 2 & 3)
 - Has an earthly assembly (1 Cor. 11:18)
 - Has earthly oversight (Acts 14:23)
 - Has an earthly treasury (1 Cor. 16:1-3)
 - It has earthly collective work (Rev. 2:5)
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What does the charter authorize?

- **Assembly** (Hebrews 10:25; 1 Cor. 14:23)
- **Worship together** (Acts 20:7)
- **Edification of Saints** (Eph. 4:12-16)
- **Support of Gospel Preaching**
(1 Cor. 9:6-14; Phil. 1:5; 4:15-16; 3 Jn. 5-8)
- **Care for its own needy** (Acts 4:34-35)
 - Not Salvation Army or Red Cross.
 - A family responsible for its own

Scriptures Authorizing Relief

Acts 4:34 “Nor was there anyone **among them** who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, 35 and laid *them* at the apostles’ feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.”

Acts 11:29 “Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief **to the brethren** dwelling in Judea.”

Scriptures Authorizing Relief

1 Corinthians 16:1 “Now concerning the collection **for the saints**, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: 2 On the first *day* of the week...

Romans 15:25 “But now I am going to Jerusalem to minister **to the saints**. 26 For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the **poor among the saints** who are in Jerusalem.”

Some Observations

- Illustration: A hospital (Role: Medical)
 - Must be prepared for fires in hospital.
 - But not throughout the neighborhood.
- Christians individually can help anyone considered worthy (Gal. 6:10; Acts 5:4)
 - -- Hospital employees could join volunteer fire department.
 - Church members can help individuals the church cannot help (1 Tim. 5:16)

1 Timothy 5:16

16 If any believing man or woman has widows, let them relieve them, and do not let the church be burdened, that it may relieve those who are really widows.

Note: If the church relieves widows with families, it limits its ability to help helpless widows. • **Like a hospital fighting fires.**

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