

The Church – So Much More

- What Is The Church?
- Is The Church Universal or Local?
- How Does The Church Function?
- What Does The Church Mean To Me?

What Is The Church

- Christ's Bride: Submit – Find Place
- Christ's Body: Serve – Find Purpose
- God's Voice: Speak – Find Power

“For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This is a profound mystery, but I am talking about Christ and the church.”

-Ephesians 5:31-32

Is The Church Collective Or Individual

“He has lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.”

-Colossians 2:19

“The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. . . Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”

-1 Corinthians 12:12,27

You and I Individually:

- Loved by God
- Serve God
- Speak as God's Ambassadors

Collectively we are:

- Christ's Bride
- Christ's Body
- God's Voice

"After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne in front of the Lamb."

-Revelation 7:9

"Resist him, standing firm in your faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings."

-1 Peter 5:9

"It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God."

-Acts 15:19

"They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the Jews."

-Galatians 2:9

The Church is vast and timeless.

-It stretches over time and across the world.

- All of God's people throughout the world
- Many cultures and variations
- Connected by identity and purpose
- Loosely organized

"All the believers were together and had everything in common."

-Acts 2:44

“In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.”

-Acts 6:1

“But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.”

-Hebrews 3:13

“Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.”

-Hebrews 13:17

The Church is small and everyday.

-It functions in specific places with few people

- God’s people gathered in a time and place
- Specific culture and form
- Connected by relationship and experience
- Tightly organized

How Do We Interact With Church

- Love all (Univ); Live and relate with few (Local)
 - Immediate Family vs. Extended Family
- Identify with all; Serve with few
 - Platoon vs. Army
- Connect to all; Function with few
 - Organ vs. Organism

It Shapes My Understanding Of The Local Church

- The Local Church is important in God’s mind and powerful in His hand.
- The Local Church holds a deep, personal, meaningful place in my heart, mind and life.

How Does The Church Function

- The Church is an Army
- The Church is a Family
- The Church is a Community
- The Church is a Body