

Section 5: What about Church?

- 1) What comes to your mind when you think of church?
- 2) According to the verses below, who is “their” referring to? What immediately happened to new believers?
 - ✚ Acts 2:41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to *their* number that day.
 - ✚ Acts 5:14 Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to *their* number.
- 3) According to the verses below, how does the Bible use the word “church”?
 - ✚ Acts 14:27 On arriving there, they gathered the church together
 - ✚ Acts 15:22 Then the apostles and elders, with the whole church, decided to choose ...
 - ✚ Acts 15:30 The men were sent off and went down to Antioch, where they gathered the church together...
- 4) According to the above verses, circle the phrases which give a correct understanding of church?
 - A special building
 - A location where believers meet
 - A community of believers
 - The place where a priest works
- 5) According to the verses below, where did these communities of believers meet?
 - ✚ 1 Corinthians 16:19 The churches in the province of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla greet you warmly in the Lord, and so does the church that meets at their house.
 - ✚ Colossians 4:15 Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.
- 6) According to the verse below, which word best describes the church’s time together?
 - Observe
 - Participate
 - Receive
 - Spectate
 - ✚ 1 Corinthians 14:26 What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, *everyone* has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.
- 7) According to the verse above, what was the purpose for everyone being involved?
- 8) According to this verse and the one below, why is it important for believers to be with the church?
 - ✚ Hebrews 10:25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another...
- 9) After reading these passages, how is the Bible’s use of “church” different from your previous understanding?
- 10) According to the verse below how important would you say the church is to God? Why?
 - ✚ Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her
 - ✚ Ephesians 3:10 His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known ...

Summary: What is church?

A church is a local group of believers who function as a community and meet together to celebrate Jesus’ death and resurrection and build each other up in their faith.

A church is not a building. A church is not a location. A church is not a special holy *place* where God’s presence dwells.