

What Is the Church?

Introduction

The broad outline of these thoughts on the church is based on the way that Paul wrote his letters to his churches. His earliest letters (Galatians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Corinthians and Romans, written 51-56 AD) are primarily concerned with establishing his newly founded churches in the gospel truths. His middle letters (Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon and Philippians, written 60-62 AD) are concerned with the gospel practices, i.e. living out the gospel truths, and appropriate household / family order in the church. These letters are written to churches that have been around for awhile. His late letters (1 & 2 Timothy, and Titus, written 62-67 AD) are focused on passing on leadership of the churches to new folks and maintaining gospel continuity in these churches (2 Tim. 2:2).

To address what the church is, we must answer these basic questions:

- Who is God and what has He done?
- Who am I and what do I do?
- Who are we and what do we do?

The broad categories which attempt to answer each of these questions can be seen in figure 1 below. More detailed explanation of each category will follow figure 1.



figure 1

What Is the Church?

1. Who is God & what has He done?

1.1 How do We Know What We Know about God?

The basis for knowing what we know about God can be summarized in this acronym—REST. REST stands for Reason, Experience, Scripture, and Tradition (We are fairly well acquainted with this teaching, but if a refresher would be helpful, here is a [six minute video](#) that summarizes what REST is). REST puts scripture as the primary authority for all that we believe. That said, REST also situates scripture in the appropriate context of community, the experienced presence of Jesus through the Holy Spirit, and the sanctified rational mind. The issue of authority is critical both for the spirit of the age that we live in, and the reality that we are an Independent Charismatic church that, at the moment, doesn't have a formal external governing body to which we submit theologically.

1.2 Gospel Truths

Here we establish the basic response to “Who is God and what has he done?” Like Paul with his young communities, we must lay this foundation first. The gospel truths define our beliefs prior to determining what we do about them. This is a critical gospel truth: belief precedes behavior.

We live in a culture that seems to downplay the importance of correct belief; these days the word “doctrine” often seems to have negative connotations. Paul’s repeated references to the importance of “the traditions,” “the things which you have heard from me,” “sound doctrine,” “the standard of sound words,” and “the faith”¹ say something quite to the contrary. It’s incumbent on us, leaders in the church, to both “guard” and “pass on” this “deposit” to this congregation.² What is helpful, in addition to the instructions we have in the NT, is to look at the efforts our brothers and sisters have made to preserve sound doctrine over the years. Familiarity with the four ecumenical creeds, or at least the most well-known (Nicene & Apostles’) would be appropriate at this point.

Not only has the NT given us the gospel, and have our brothers and sisters written creeds to summarize the gospel, but each generation must articulate the gospel in its own dialect and culture. We must do the same. We’ve already gone to the effort to develop our own statement on gospel truths (and practices). See Appendix A for a refresher on what we assembled together.

What Is the Church?

2. Who Am I & what do I do?

2.1 Gospel Truths

We can only understand who we are in light of a prior understanding of who God is. Thus, we answer the “me” question only after exploring the “He” question.

2.2 Gospel Practices

Once we have a clear understanding of what the gospel truths are, we then live them out. Truths precede practice. Belief precedes behavior. This is a critical order. That said, it’s just as critical to understand that truth and practice, belief and behavior, can never be separated. Our practices are, in fact must be, the loving response we make to God’s character and work. Without our response, we can’t say with confidence that we actually believe the gospel truths. That said, our gospel practices are like learning to walk. We start by crawling. Then tottering and stumbling. And eventually, as we mature, we start walking, even with some consistency. This pastoral understanding of growing into gospel practices is critical to keep the spirit of the Gospel intact.

The NT gives us much in the way of gospel practices.³ Again, what is critical to see is how they are always married to, and often explicitly preceded by, gospel truths.⁴ The early church also assembled statements that articulate gospel practices. In addition the NT, a good example is a document called *The Didache*, written around 70 AD. Later statements of gospel practices can also be seen in church confessions. Again, like the gospel truths, we must articulate gospel practices in our culture and dialect. Refer to Appendix A for the gospel practices we have together compiled.

3. Who are we & what do we do?

Our individualistic culture often stops with the questions “Who am I and what do I do?” or, it subsumes the “who are we” questions under the “I” heading. That approach doesn’t seem to give the same weight to the “we” nature of the church as the scriptures do. So, a separate section on the church seems appropriate.

Establishment and Expansion

In its essence, the church is dynamic. It is in perpetual motion. And this motion takes two directions: Establishment and expansion. The church is always in the process of expanding. It is, in obedience to Jesus’ command, always inviting more people to follow Him (see 3.1 below). It must be always stretching beyond its boundaries to offer the gospel to those who don’t know Jesus. At the same time, the church is always being

What Is the Church?

established. In each place where the gospel is believed, these believers must be organized into a community which then, hopefully, grows and matures so that the gospel takes root and bears fruit in that culture. Expansion and establishment. These comprise the ongoing dynamism of the church. See appendix B for how the book of Acts illustrates this pattern.

3.1 Expansion

It is normative for the church to expand. Jesus' words to his disciples in Matt. 28:18-20; Luke 24:46-49 and Acts 1:7-8 are just a few of the examples where Jesus commands his church to expand. The church in Acts was in a constant state of growth. No less than eighteen times Luke tells us that it was growing.⁵ It is normal for the church to expand.

3.1.1 Expansion Leadership

3.1.1.1. *Five-Fold teams.* Paul's activities in Acts, and his letters, show us that he assembled teams that were dedicated to the expansion of the church. See below in "leadership" under 3.2.2.1 for more on this.

3.1.1.2. *Training up leaders.* Paul trained up leaders who would do the same work of expansion that he was doing.⁶ See below in "leadership" under 3.2.2.1 for more on this as well.

3.2 Family

The scriptures give multiple pictures of what the church is: The Body of Christ, the people of God, God's temple, and others. All of these metaphors are critical to understand what the church is. The picture that seems best to emphasize is the one which seems to be most at the heart of how the NT conceives the structure of the church, and also the one which seems to cut to the heart of our culture's longing: Family.

3.2.1 So, what is the church?

It is a family. More accurately, it is a family of families. A household of households. A big house made of little houses. How do we know this?

3.2.1.1 *Family is rooted in the Trinitarian being of God.* When God makes his people, he imprints his image, his unity / diversity Trinitarian nature, in family.⁷

3.2.1.2 *The NT church was built through families.* The NT term for family is *oikos*, which can also be translated as "household." The NT church was comprised of households, which in NT times included the biological father, mother, and kids, but also included extended relationships (i.e. slaves). The gospel spread through believing households⁸ and church life was lived out from household to household.⁹

What Is the Church?

3.2.1.3 *The church is explicitly described as a family by the NT writers.*¹⁰ In fact, Paul, the primary person the NT describes to us as an expander and establisher of churches, said that God had explained to him the administration, the *oikonomia*, of the gospel (Eph. 3:9). This word, *oikonomia* literally means household management.¹¹

3.2.2 What is an established church family?

Paul becomes our primary example in the NT of what it means to establish churches. Not only do we see that God gave him instructions for the “household order” of the church, but we see him living it out in his journeys in Acts and the letters he wrote to his churches (which comprise most of the NT). Paul was constantly concerned with the establishment of his churches. The Greek word used for “establish” in the NT is *sterizo* and can be translated several different ways in the NT (establish, strengthen, confirm, set in place). That said, Paul consistently expressed concern that his churches become established, mature families.¹² In fact, Paul even passed up opportunities to expand the church when he saw that one of his existing churches was in trouble and in need more stable establishment.¹³ The reason was that if the church weren’t adequately established, he would eventually have to return and expand the church in that territory once again.

3.2.2.1 Gospel

Paul’s first concern for establishment of a church was its grounding in the gospel. As was mentioned above, in all of Paul’s early letters to his churches—letters written shortly after he had planted these churches—his primary concern was their understanding, and obedience to, the gospel. The above comments on the gospel should suffice for our understanding about the importance of the gospel for a church to be established.

3.2.2.2 Family Order

Paul’s second concern for the establishment of a church was its family structure, its household order, which he was given by God (Eph. 3:9). Paul outlines the appropriate family structure in three general ways:

- *Little House*. This refers to the individual *oikos* that makes up the church. Paul describes the relationships of wives and husbands, fathers and children, and masters and slaves.¹⁴
- *Big House*. Household instructions on men & women,¹⁵ handling conflict,¹⁶ assembly meetings,¹⁷ giving and financial matters,¹⁸ widows and special needs,¹⁹ community life and ministry,²⁰ and relationship with the world.²¹
- *Leadership*. Paul, and the rest of the NT writers, help us to see a picture of what early church leadership looked like.²² Generally speaking there were two teams of

What Is the Church?

leaders. Both teams contributed to the establishment, and expansion, of the church. Both teams must exist for the church to be the church. However, each team had a different emphasis. One team was a “Five-fold team” comprised of apostles,²³ prophets,²⁴ evangelists,²⁵ pastors²⁶ and teachers.²⁷ This team’s primary focus was the expansion of the church through training up new leaders, equipping local believers for ministry, and planting new local churches in new areas. The other team was that of elders²⁸ and deacons.²⁹ Their primary emphasis was the establishment of the local church, while participating in the expansion of the church through identifying, commending, and sending five-fold team leaders. See Appendix C for a detailed description of these leadership roles.

3.3. Establishment & Expansion Language. How should we express the establishment and expansion in our own dialect? What seems to work is to call the church a “family on mission.” The word mission captures the expansion movement clearly. And “family” fits well with the expansion idea (birth and adoption).

3.4 Resource Church

In the book of Acts, the church at Antioch occupies a unique place. It was responsible for the identification, training, sending, and ongoing encouragement of the first Five-Fold teams who expanded the church throughout the world. While it is unclear whether other churches operated in a similar manner, it is clear that Antioch serves as a model for at least some churches that would do the same kind of work.

3.4.1 Leadership training

Antioch appeared to identify and foster leaders from within their own congregation. These leaders served both as Five-Fold teams, and also as local leaders.³⁰

3.4.2 Relational networks

The church at Antioch remained in relationship with other Five-Fold teams, such as the church at Jerusalem. These teams worked side by side in the expansion of the church, and helped one another in settling relational and theological issues in or between their respective networks.³¹

What Is the Church?

Appendix A

GOSPEL TRUTHS

There is one God, in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.³²

God the Father is the creator of all things³³ who works everything after the counsel of His will.³⁴ Out of His love He reveals himself and acts in creation through the Son and the Holy Spirit. His intention from before creation was to adopt humanity into the eternal loving fellowship of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.³⁵

Jesus Christ is God the Son,³⁶ eternally begotten from the Father.³⁷

Humanity is separated from God through sin.³⁸ As the one and only mediator between God and humanity,³⁹ Jesus became human while remaining fully God.⁴⁰ Jesus fulfilled that which was spoken by the prophets⁴¹ and revealed the Father to all creation.⁴²

For humanity's salvation, Jesus was crucified,⁴³ died,⁴⁴ and was buried.⁴⁵

On third day God raised Jesus from the dead,⁴⁶ according to the Scriptures,⁴⁷ and appeared to his disciples.⁴⁸

Jesus ascended to the right hand of God the Father.⁴⁹

Jesus will return to earth⁵⁰ to judge the living and dead⁵¹ and to consummate His kingdom on earth.⁵² Only those who put their faith in Jesus are forgiven of sins,⁵³ justified,⁵⁴ adopted⁵⁵ into the fellowship of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and will enjoy eternal life⁵⁶ with God in Jesus' kingdom.⁵⁷ Those who do not put their faith in Jesus will remain separated from God for eternity in hell.⁵⁸

The Holy Spirit is God,⁵⁹ eternally proceeding from the Father.⁶⁰ The Spirit inhabits those who put their faith in Jesus⁶¹ and gives them new birth⁶² and adoption⁶³ into the loving fellowship of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Spirit is the source of the believer's transformation into the image of Jesus⁶⁴ and the power to bear witness to Jesus in word⁶⁵ and action.⁶⁶

The church is the fellowship of all humanity who put their faith in Jesus. By the presence of the Holy Spirit⁶⁷ they are the body of Christ,⁶⁸ of which Jesus Christ is the head.⁶⁹ There is only one Church.⁷⁰

Upon Christ's return,⁷¹ all the Church will be raised bodily from the dead⁷² to live eternally⁷³ with God⁷⁴ in Christ's kingdom,⁷⁵ the new heavens and new earth,⁷⁶ the restoration of all things.⁷⁷

What Is the Church?

GOSPEL PRACTICES

All humans can and must respond affirmatively or negatively to Jesus Christ, the one and only mediator between God and man. The affirmative response to Jesus is repentance⁷⁸ and faith in Jesus Christ,⁷⁹ which is demonstrated by baptism.⁸⁰

Those who respond to Jesus Christ in repentance and faith are given the Holy Spirit⁸¹ and are included “in Christ,” which fundamentally transforms their identity. They are made into a new creation,⁸² forgiven of all sins,⁸³ justified by faith apart from their works,⁸⁴ are declared the righteousness of God,⁸⁵ are reconciled to God,⁸⁶ are adopted as children of God,⁸⁷ and inherit eternal life with God.⁸⁸

As a result of this transformation of identity, those who believe in Christ live a new life empowered by the inner presence of the Holy Spirit.⁸⁹ The Holy Spirit enables the believer to live a life of growing obedience to God, which is called discipleship.⁹⁰ This discipleship is the believer’s ongoing response to God’s love in Jesus,⁹¹ and it involves the continuing choice to learn what pleases God,⁹² to leave behind the old life, and to live as “in Christ.”⁹³

The believer’s life of discipleship, empowered by the Holy Spirit, yields good works⁹⁴ and character traits which are described as fruit.⁹⁵ The primary and summative fruit of discipleship is love: Love for God, self, and others.⁹⁶ Love is expressed through character traits such as joy,⁹⁷ peace,⁹⁸ patience,⁹⁹ kindness,¹⁰⁰ goodness,¹⁰¹ faithfulness,¹⁰² gentleness,¹⁰³ self-control,¹⁰⁴ forgiveness,¹⁰⁵ generosity,¹⁰⁶ holiness¹⁰⁷ and humility.¹⁰⁸

The believer’s life of discipleship is characterized by the essential ongoing practices of prayer,¹⁰⁹ worship,¹¹⁰ word,¹¹¹ witness,¹¹² and fellowship.

The fellowship of believers, the church, is characterized by both unity and diversity. The Holy Spirit, in cooperation with believers, maintains this unity and diversity.¹¹³ The Spirit enables the believer to bear fruit,¹¹⁴ chief of which is love,¹¹⁵ to maintain relational unity in the church.¹¹⁶ The Spirit maintains diversity in the church through gifts given to individual believers which are expressed through love for the edification of the church.¹¹⁷ Unity and diversity in the church are also maintained through a relational governmental structure which envisions the church as a family of families¹¹⁸ and also informs how the church engages with the world.¹¹⁹

What Is the Church?

Appendix B

ESTABLISHMENT & EXPANSION OF THE CHURCH IN ACTS

Luke 1:1-4

- “handed down to us” (v. 2)
- “investigated carefully” (v.3)
- “write it in consecutive order” (v.3)
- “so that to know the exact truth.” (v.4)

Acts 1:1-8

- “First account” is about “all that Jesus began to do and teach” (v. 1)
- Purpose of this second account, Acts, is “You will receive power... and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth” (v. 8)

Assumption 1: Luke gives us, in Acts, an orderly, careful, consecutive account of the expansion of the gospel from Jerusalem, to the ends of the earth.

Assumption 2: Acts is not just history, but there is something to learn from the account as to how we do the same task. The author included and excluded certain details on purpose.

With Paul, the birth of the church to the Gentiles is thrust forward. This is us. So here’s what happens:

Expansion: Gospel preached in Antioch by scattered Jerusalem Christians. Many believe (Acts 11:19-21).

Establishment: Barnabas & Paul train the Antioch believers for an entire year (Acts 11:22-26).

Expansion:

- Antioch church leaders pray & the Holy Spirit sets aside Paul & Barnabas for a new mission (Acts 13:1-3).
- Paul & Barnabas are sent from Antioch and preach the gospel in Cyprus, Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe and many believe (Acts 13:4-14:21).

Establishment:

- Paul & Barnabas return to the cities where they won converts and encourage them, teach them, and appoint elders over the churches (Acts 14:21-26).
- Paul & Barnabas return to Antioch and share the good news of what God did on their journey. They stay with the Antioch church (Acts 14:27-28).

What Is the Church?

- Paul & Barnabas establish the Antioch church further through clarification of doctrine and ongoing teaching and preaching (Acts 15:1-35)
- Paul decides to go and establish the churches he & Barnabas planted (Acts 15:36-16:5).

Expansion:

- Paul & Silas are sent out again from Antioch. They try to go several directions. The Holy Spirit instead tells him to go to Macedonia to preach the gospel (Acts 16:6-10).
- Paul & Silas preach the gospel in Philippi (Acts 16:11-40), Thessalonica (Acts 17:1-9), Berea (Acts 17:10-15) and many believe in each city.
- Paul goes to Corinth, teams up with Aquila and Priscilla, and preaches the gospel (Acts 18:1-10).

Establishment:

- Paul stays in Corinth and teaches for 18 months (Acts 18:11)
- Paul writes 1 and 2 Thesalonians.

Expansion:

- Paul goes to Ephesus with Aquila & Priscilla, preaches the gospel and wins converts (Acts 18:18-21)
- Paul leaves Aquila and Priscilla in Ephesus to preach the gospel, along with Apollos (Acts 18:24-28).

Establishment:

- Paul returns to Antioch and spends time there. Then he goes throughout the Galatian region to strengthen the disciples (Acts 18:22).
- Apollos goes to Corinth to teach the church (Acts 19:1).
- Paul goes back to Ephesus and teaches the church for two years (Acts 19:1-20).
- Paul writes 1 Corinthians
- Paul sends Timothy & Erastus into Macedonia (Acts 19:21-22).
- Paul and his team go to Macedonia & Greece and exhort the churches there (Acts 20:1-5).
- Paul writes 2 Corinthians
- Paul goes to Troas to encourage the church there (Acts 20:6-12).
- Paul meets the elders of the Ephesian church in Miletus and encourages them (Acts 20:17-37).
- Paul encourages the disciples at Tyre (Acts 21:3-6).
- Paul meets up with the church at Ptolemais (Acts 21:7).
- Paul meets up with the church in Caesarea (Acts 21:8-14).
- Paul encourages the church in Jerusalem (Acts 21:17-20).

What Is the Church?

Expansion

- Paul preaches the gospel in Jerusalem (Acts 21:37-22:21).
- Paul preaches the gospel in Caesarea to Governor Felix (Acts 24:10-27).
- Paul preaches the gospel in Caesarea to King Agrippa and Governor Festus (Acts 25:13-26:32).
- Paul spreads the gospel in Malta (Acts 28:1-10).
- Paul preaches the gospel in Rome while in prison (Acts 28:17-30).

Establishment

- Paul teaches in Rome (Acts 28:30).
- Paul writes Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon & Philippians.
- Paul is freed from prison.
- Paul writes 1 Timothy & Titus.
- Paul is imprisoned in Rome a second time.
- Paul writes 2 Timothy.
- Paul is martyred.

The Pauline Cycle

Overall, the pattern that Paul seemed to follow for this expansion and establishment cycle works is:

- Preach the gospel
- Gather believers together
- Appoint leaders
- Establish the church through teaching, repeated visits, and letters

What Is the Church?

Appendix C

LEADERS IN THE EARLY CHURCH

Leaders in General

- **The NT church did have leaders.** It was led by a plurality of leaders who appeared to function in two teams: Five-Fold team, elders and deacons.
- **The titles and roles of leader in the NT church were highly “permeable.”** They were not hard and fast “offices,” but were more determined by gift and function in the context of personal character. Here are some examples:
 - Paul was called an apostle, a prophet, a teacher, did the work of an evangelist, functioned as an elder, and even performed the work of a deacon at times.
 - Peter was an apostle, but also called himself an elder, who shepherded, or “pastors,” the church.¹²⁰
 - Barnabas was called an apostle, a prophet, a teacher, and did the work of an evangelist.
 - Silas was called a prophet, does the work of an apostle, and does the work of an evangelist.

Five-Fold Team

- **Was always a team.** Think of Paul & Barnabas; Paul, Silas, Timothy; Paul and many other team members. Note the lists of people at the beginning and end of Paul’s letters.
- **Global focus (mission) and local participation (family).** The primary focus of the five-fold team was the expansion of the church. However, for the church to expand required that local churches be established. So the five-fold team frequently spent lengthy periods of time working with the local leaders to establish the local churches.
- **The five-fold team appears to be identified by and sent by the local leaders.** See Acts 13:1-3; 1 Tim. 4:14 and Phil. 1:5.
- **The five-fold team appeared to be comprised of some combination of the graces listed in Ephesians 4:11.** Again, the teams didn’t appear to be a hard and fast rule. Here is a brief look at each of these graces.
 - **Apostle.**
 - At first, the term only refers to the 12 apostles who were with Jesus.¹²¹
 - Later in the life of the early church, apostle is used to refer to a larger group of people:¹²² Matthias,¹²³ Paul,¹²⁴ Barnabas,¹²⁵ Andronicus,¹²⁶ Junia,¹²⁷ Apollos,¹²⁸ James,¹²⁹ and Silas.¹³⁰

What Is the Church?

- There were those that tried to pose as apostles.¹³¹
- **Prophet**
 - There were multiple prophets in the NT, and not all were named.¹³²
 - NT prophets mentioned by name: Barnabas,¹³³ Simeon,¹³⁴ Lucius,¹³⁵ Manaen,¹³⁶ Saul.¹³⁷ Silas.¹³⁸ Judas.¹³⁹ and Agabus.¹⁴⁰
 - NT churches dealt with false prophets.¹⁴¹
- **Evangelist**
 - *euangelistes*: “Bringer of good tidings; preacher of good news; preacher of the Gospel”
 - Formal title “Evangelist”: In general. Eph. 4:11
 - Specific people: Philip. Acts 21:8.¹⁴² Timothy.¹⁴³ 2 Tim. 4:5 Preachers of the gospel: General.¹⁴⁴ The twelve apostles.¹⁴⁵ Paul.¹⁴⁶
- **Pastor**
 - The word “pastor” is only used once in the NT (Eph. 4:11). However, it is the word “shepherd.” So, the role of pastor can be understood through references to the noun “shepherd” and the verb “to shepherd.”
 - Named pastors: Peter.¹⁴⁷ and Paul.¹⁴⁸
 - Elders were to shepherd, or pastor, the church.¹⁴⁹
- **Teacher**
 - In one sense, all disciples were to teach.¹⁵⁰ Older women were to particularly perform this function with younger woman (an example of “spiritual parenting”).¹⁵¹
 - In another sense, teaching was a gift¹⁵² which should only be exercised by a few.¹⁵³
 - Named teachers in the NT: 12 apostles,¹⁵⁴ Paul,¹⁵⁵ Barnabas,¹⁵⁶ Timothy,¹⁵⁷ Apollos,¹⁵⁸ Simeon,¹⁵⁹ Lucius,¹⁶⁰ and Manaen.¹⁶¹
 - Elders were required to be able to teach.¹⁶²
 - There were issues with false teachers in the NT.¹⁶³

Local Church leaders

- **Were always a team.** Elders were always referred to in the plural.
- **Local focus (family) and global participation (mission).** The focus of local church leaders was almost exclusively local. Thus, we see the elders/overseers were given the instructions to teach and shepherd the church. That said, local church leaders participated in the expansion of the church both through their local witness (see the multiple instances in Acts where the church grew locally in Jerusalem), and the identification and sending of five-fold leaders (see Acts 13:1-3; 1 Tim. 4:14; Phil. 1:5).

What Is the Church?

- **Local church leaders appear to be appointed by the five-fold team.** See Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Tim. 3:1-7.
- **Elder/Overseer**
 - The word “elder” in Greek *presbuteros*. The word “overseer” is *episkopos*. The NT uses these terms interchangeably. See 1 Peter 5:1-5; Titus 1:5, 7.
 - The character of the elder is of primary importance.
 - Elders were to pastor—shepherd—the church. They were to manage the affairs of the church. The elders were also to be able to teach, and some were to have a special focus on this role. See above for scripture references.
- **Deacon**
 - The term “deacon” is only used three times. However, it comes from the word to “serve” or “minister.” So, there are times in the NT where the word deacon is not used, but the function appears with reasonable clarity. Acts 6:1-6 is the most clear example.
 - “Deacon” appears to be considered a gift.¹⁶⁴
 - People, in addition to those named in Acts 6:1-6, that appear to have done the work of a deacon: Timothy,¹⁶⁵ Erastus,¹⁶⁶ Onesiphorus,¹⁶⁷ and Onesimus.¹⁶⁸
 - It seems that at least one aspect of a deacon’s work was to tend to practical needs.¹⁶⁹ However, Stephen, apparently a deacon, taught powerfully (see Acts 6:8-7:53).

Jesus himself embodies every role of leadership in the Church

- Jesus the Apostle.¹⁷⁰
- Jesus the Prophet.¹⁷¹
- Jesus the Evangelist.¹⁷²
- Jesus the Pastor.¹⁷³
- Jesus the teacher.¹⁷⁴
- Jesus the elder/overseer.¹⁷⁵
- Jesus the deacon.¹⁷⁶

What Is the Church?

End Notes

¹ 1 Cor. 11:2, 23; 15:1-3; Col. 1:23; 2 Thess. 2:15; 3:6; 2 Tim. 1:13; 2:2; See also Acts 14:22; 16:5; 2 Pet. 1:12; Jude 3

² 2 Tim. 1:13-14; 2:2

³ Phil. 3:16; 4:9; 1 Thess. 4:12; 2 Thess. 3:6; 2 Tim. 3:10; Heb. 13:7

⁴ For example, see the gospel truths in Ephesians chapters 1-3, followed by the gospel practices of chapters 4-6. Colossians follows a very similar pattern.

⁵ Acts 2:41, 47; 4:4; 5:14; 6:1, 7; 9:31, 35, 42; 11:21, 24; 12:24; 14:1, 21; 16:5; 17:12; 19:20

⁶ Acts 16:1-5; 1 & Timothy; Titus

⁷ 1 John 4:8; Richard of St. Victor's model of the Trinity as reflective of father, mother, child (Gen. 1:27-28; 2:24).

⁸ John 4:53; Acts 16:31, 34; 18:8;

⁹ Acts 2:46; 5:42; 12:12; 1 Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:15; Philemon 2

¹⁰ Gal. 6:10; Eph. 2:19; Heb. 3:6; 1 Tim. 3:4-5, 15

¹¹ For example, see Luke 16:2-4.

¹² Acts 14:21-23; 15:36-16:5; 18:22-23; Romans 1:8-15; 16:25-27; 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13; esp. v. 2; 2 Thessalonians 2:17

¹³ 2 Cor. 2:12-13

¹⁴ Eph. 5:18-6:9; Col. 3:18-4:1. See also 1 & 2 Timothy; Titus; 1 Pet. 2:18-3:7

¹⁵ 1 Timothy 2:8-14; 3:4-5; 5:9-10, 14-15; 1 Corinthians 11:1-12; 14:34-36; Titus 2:3-5; Ephesians 5:22-6:4; Colossians 3:18-4:1

¹⁶ Galatians 2:1-14; 5:12-6:5; Acts 15:1-41; 1 Corinthians 5:1-6:11; 2 Corinthians 2:1-14; 7:5-13; 2 Thessalonians 3:5-16; 1 Timothy 5:19-22; 2 Timothy 2:14-26; Titus 1:9-16; 3:9-11; Romans 14:1-15:7; Philippians 4:2-5

¹⁷ Acts 11:19-26; 19:8-10; 20:7-12; Romans 16:5; 1 Corinthians 11:17-14:38; Ephesians 5:15-21; 1 Timothy 2:1-15; 4:6-16

¹⁸ Acts 6:1-7; 11:27-30; 1 Corinthians 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8:1-9:15; Galatians 6:6-10; 1 Timothy 3:3, 5; 5:1-18; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15

¹⁹ Romans 12:13; 15:26; 1 Corinthians 16:1-5; 2 Corinthians 8:1-9:15; Galatians 6:9-10; 1 Timothy 5:1-16; Titus 3:12-14; James 1:27; 2:1-13

²⁰ Romans 12:3-16; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31; Ephesians 4:11-16

²¹ Titus 2:1-15; 3:1-8; Colossians 4:2-6; 1 Peter 3:8-17; 1 Corinthians 9:9-13; 1 Timothy 2:1-8; Romans 13:1-7

What Is the Church?

²² Matt. 23:8-12; Luke 22:24-27; Acts 6:1-7; 15:22; 17:4; 1 Thess. 5:12-13; Heb. 13:17, 24

²³ Matt. 10:2-4; Luke 6:13-16; 9:10; 17:5; 22:14; 24:10; Acts 1:2, 26; 2:37, 42, 43; 4:33, 35-37; 5:12, 18, 29, 40; 6:6; 8:1, 14, 18; 9:27; 11:1; 14:4, 14; 15:2, 4, 6, 22, 23; 16:4; Rom. 1:1; 11:13; 16:7; 1 Cor. 1:1; 4:9; 9:1-2, 5; 12:28; 15:7; 15:9; 2 Cor. 1:1; 11:5, 13; 12:11-12; Gal. 1:1, 17, 19; Eph. 1:1; 2:20; 3:5; 4:11; Col. 1:1; 1 Thess. 2:6; 1 Tim. 1:1; 2:7; 2 Tim. 1:1, 11; Titus 1:1; 1 Peter 1:1; 2 Peter 1:1; 3:2; Jude 17; Rev. 2:2; 18:20; 21:14

²⁴ Matt. 7:15; 10:41; 11:9; 14:5; 21:26; 23:34; 24:11, 24; Mark 6:15; 11:32; 13:22; Luke 1:76; 7:16, 26, 39; 9:8, 19; 13:33; 20:6; 24:19; John 4:19, 44; 6:14, 45; 7:40, 52; 9:17; Acts 3:22-23; 7:37; 11:27; 13:1, 6; 15:32; 21:10; 1 Cor. 12:28-29; 14:29, 32, 37; Eph. 2:20; 3:5; 4:11; Titus 1:12; 2 Pet. 2:1; 1 John 4:1; Rev. 11:10, 18; 16:13; 18:20, 24; 19:20; 20:10; 22:6, 9

²⁵ Proper name: Acts 21:8; Eph. 4:11; 2 Tim. 4:5. Preacher of gospel: Matt. 24:14; Mark 13:10; 14:9; 16:15; Luke 9:1-6; Acts 8:25; 20:24; Rom. 1:1; 2:16; 15:16; 16:25; 1 Cor. 1:17; 9:16, 18; 15:1; 2 Cor. 10:16; 11:4, 7; Gal. 1:8-9; 2:2; 4:13; 4:15; 1 Pet. 1:12; 4:6; Rev. 14:6

²⁶ Proper name: Eph. 4:11. Shepherd (noun): Matt. 9:36; 26:31; Mark 6:34; 14:27; John 10:2, 11-12, 14, 16; Heb. 13:20; 1 Pet. 2:25. Shepherd (verb): Matt. 2:6; John 21:16; Acts 20:28; 1 Cor. 9:7; 1 Pet. 5:2; Jude 12; Rev. 2:27; 7:17; 12:5; 19:5

²⁷ Matt. 4:23; 5:19; 7:28-29; 8:19; 9:11, 35; 10:24-25; 12:38; 13:54; 15:9; 16:12; 17:24; 19:16; 21:23; 22:16, 24, 33, 36; 23:8; 26:18, 26:55; 28:20; Mark 1:22, 27; 2:13; 4:2, 38; 5:35; 6:6; 7:7; 9:17, 31, 38; 10:17, 20, 35; 12:14, 19, 32, 38; 13:1; 14:14, 49; Luke 3:12; 4:15, 31; 5:3, 17; 6:6, 40; 7:40; 8:49; 9:38; 10:25; 11:45; 12:13; 13:10, 22; 18:18; 19:39, 47; 20:1, 21, 28, 39; 21:7, 37; 22:11; 23:5; John 1:38; 3:2; 3:10; 7:16-17, 28; 8:4; 11:28; 13:13-14; 18:19; 20:16; Acts 2:42; 4:2; 5:25, 28, 42; 13:1, 12; 15:35; 17:19; 18:25; 20:20; 28:31; Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28-29; 1 Cor. 14:6, 26; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:11; Col. 3:16; 1 Tim. 1:7, 10; 2:7; 4:13, 16; 5:17; 2 Tim. 1:11; 3:10; 4:3, 15; Titus 1:11; 2:3; Heb. 5:12; James 3:1; 2 Pet. 2:1; 1 John 2:27; 2 John 9; Rev. 2:14-15, 20, 24

²⁸ Elder: Acts 11:30; 14:23; 15:2, 4, 6, 22, 23; 16:4; 20:17; 21:18; 1 Tim. 4:14; 5:17, 19; Titus 1:5; James 5:14; 1 Pet. 5:1, 5; 2 John 1; 3 John 1; Rev. 4:4, 10; 5:5, 6, 8, 11, 14; 7:11, 13; 11:16; 14:3; 19:4. Overseer: Acts 20:28; Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:7; 1 Pet. 2:25

²⁹ Proper name: Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:8, 10, 12-13; Role of service: Matt. 8:15; 20:28; 27:55; Mark 1:31; 10:45; 15:41; Luke 4:39; 8:3; 10:40; 12:37; 17:8; 22:26-27; John 12:2, 26; Acts 6:1-6; 19:22; 2 Cor. 8:19-20; 1 Tim. 3:13; 2 Tim. 1:18; Philemon 13; Heb. 6:10; 1 Pet. 4:10-11

³⁰ Acts 13:1-3; 16:1-5; 1 & 2 Timothy (see especially 2 Tim. 2:2); Titus

³¹ Acts 15:1-16:5; Gal. 1:18-2:21

³² Gen. 1:26; 3:22; 11:7; 16:7, 13; Ex. 3:2-6; 23:20-22; Num. 22:35, 38; Judg. 2:1-2; 6:11, 14; Ps. 45:6-7; 110:1; Isa. 6:8; 7:14; 9:6; 48:16; 63:10; Mal. 3:1-2; Hos. 1:7; Matt. 3:16-17; 16:16-17; 21:33; 24:31; 25:31; 28:19; Luke 12:12; 22:66-71; John 1:1-18; 3:5-7; 5:19; 8:29; 10:38; 14:7, 10, 16, 26, 28; 15:26; 16:13, 15; 17:24; 20:31; Acts 5:3-4; 13:2; Rom. 3:30; 8:26-27; 9:5; 1 Cor. 8:6; 12:4-6; 2 Cor. 13:14; Col. 2:9-11; Eph. 4:4-6; 1 Tim. 2:5; Titus 2:3; Heb. 1:3; 7:25; 9:14; James 2:19; 1 John 2:1; 3:9; 1 Peter 1:1-2; Jude 20-21

³³ Acts 17:24-26, 29; 1 Cor. 8:6

³⁴ Eph. 1:11

³⁵ Eph. 1:4; John 15:9; 17:24

What Is the Church?

³⁶ Matt. 26:63-66; 28:18; Mark 14:61-64; 15:1-5; Luke 22:67-71; 24:52; John 1:1-3, 10, 15, 18; 14:1; 17:5; 19:7; 20:31; Acts 2:36; Rom. 1:4; 1 Cor. 8:6; Phil. 2:10-11; Eph. 1:20-23; 1 Tim. 3:16

³⁷ John 3:16; 14:10-11, 20; 16:32; 17:2, 10, 21

³⁸ Gen. 3:8-24; Deut. 31:17-18; Josh. 7:12; 2 Chron. 24:20; Ps. 78:59-61; Matt. 7:21; 25:41; Rom. 1:18-3:20, 23; 6:23; Heb. 12:14

³⁹ John 14:4-6; Acts 4:12; Rom. 1:5; 1 Tim. 2:5; 1 Pet. 3:18

⁴⁰ Luke 1:30-35; John 1:14; Phil. 2:6-8; 1 Tim 3:16

⁴¹ foretold by the prophets: Matt. 26:54; 27:9, 46; Mark 14:49; 15:24, 28; Luke 22:37; 23:34; 24:25-27, 44-47; John 19:28, 36-37; 20:9; Acts 3:13; 4:11; 7:2-35, 37, 44-53; 10:43; 13:17-23, 27; 17:2-3; Rom. 1:2-3. Descendant of David: Acts 13:23, 26; 17:3, 7; Luke 4:18; 7:22; John 1:17; 6:69; Rom. 1:3; Acts 2:36; 2 Tim. 2:8.

⁴² John 1:1, 14, 17, 18; 14:7-9; John 16:25; 17:6

⁴³ Matt. 27:35-49; Mark 15:20-36; Luke 23:33-45; John 19:16-2; Acts 2:13-15, 23; 4:10; 10:39; 13:27-28

⁴⁴ Matt. 27:50-54; Mark 15:37-39; Luke 23:46-49; John 19:30-37; Acts 7:52; 26:23; Phil. 2:8; 1 Pet. 3:18

⁴⁵ Matt. 27:57-66; Mark 15:42-47; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42; Acts 13:29; 1 Cor. 15:4

⁴⁶ Acts 2:24; 3:15, 26; 10:40; 13:30; 17:31; 26:8, 23; Rom. 1:4; 1 Cor. 15:4; Eph. 1:19-20; 2 Tim. 2:8; 1 Pet. 3:18

⁴⁷ Acts 2:25-32, 34-35; 13:32-37; 17:2-3; 1 Cor. 15:4

⁴⁸ Matt. 28:1-17; Mark 16:1-14; Luke 24:1-53; John 20:1-29; Acts 1:3; 1 Cor. 15:6-8

⁴⁹ Matt. 28:1-17; Mark 16:1-14, 19; Luke 16:19; 24:1-53; John 14:2-4, 12, 28; 16:5, 7, 10; 16:16-19, 28; 17:11; 20:1-29; Acts 1:2-3, 9; 2:33, 36; 3:21; 5:31; 7:55-56; 10:39, 40-41; 13:31; Rom. 8:34; 1 Cor. 15:6-8; Eph. 1:20; 2:6; Col. 3:1; Heb. 10:12; 12:2; 1 Tim. 3:16; 1 Pet. 3:22

⁵⁰ John 14:3, 18, 28; 16:22; Luke 23:42; Acts 1:11; 3:21-26; 1 Pet. 1:5

⁵¹ Matt. 28:18; John 17:31; Acts 10:42

⁵² Matt. 26:29; Mark 14:25; Luke 22:16-18; 23:42; John 18:36

⁵³ Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20, 28-30; Rom. 4:25; 1 Cor. 1:30; Eph. 1:7; 4:32; 1 Pet. 3:18; Eph. 1:7; Gal. 1:4

⁵⁴ 2 Cor. 3:14; Gal. 2:4, 16-17; 5:6; Phil. 3:3, 9; Col. 1:4; 2:5; 1 Tim. 1:13; 2 Tim. 1:13; 2:10; 3:13, 15; Philemon 8; 1 John 4:15

⁵⁵ Gal. 3:26; Eph. 1:5; 5:1-2

⁵⁶ John 3:15-18, 36; 14:19; 17:2-3

⁵⁷ Unbelief in Jesus results in God's wrath: Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43, 45-50; 22:1-14; Mark 16:16; John 3:18, 36; 15:1-2, 6, 22, 24; 16:9-11; Acts 3:23; 13:40-41.

What Is the Church?

⁵⁸ Matt. 7:13, 19; 8:11-12; 10:28;13:30, 38, 40, 42, 46, 40-50; 18:8-9, 34-35; 22:13, 33; 25:41, 46; Mark 9:43, 45, 47; Luke 12:50-51; 16:23-28; John 15:5; 1 Cor. 6:9; Gal. 5:21; Eph. 5:5; 2 Thess. 1:8; Heb. 6:2; 10:27; 2 Pet. 2:4; Rev. 14:10-11; 20:10, 13-15; 21:8; 22:15

⁵⁹ Ps. 139:7; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Cor. 2:10-11; 3:16; 6:19; Heb. 9:14

⁶⁰ John 14:16, 26; 15:26; Sent by Jesus; in Jesus' name: John 3:34; 14:26; 15:26

⁶¹ Acts 10:44-46; John 14:17; Gal. 3:14; Eph. 1:13; 1 John 2:27-28; 4:13

⁶² John 3:3, 5-8, 15-18, 36; 1 Pet. 1:3

⁶³ Mark 10:28-31; John 1:12-13; Rom. 8:14-17; Gal. 3:26; 4:6-7; Eph. 1:5

⁶⁴ 2 Cor. 3:17-18; 1 Pet. 1:2

⁶⁵ John 15:27; Luke 24:49; John 20:22; Acts 1:8; Col. 3:30; Eph. 6:19-20

⁶⁶ By example: Matt. 5:14-16; Titus 3:12; 1 Pet. 2:12. With healing, signs & wonders: Matt. 4:23; 9:35; 11:5; Mark 16:17-18, 20; Luke 9:1-6; Acts 8:13; Rom. 15:18-19

⁶⁷ 1 Cor. 12:3-4, 13; Eph. 2:18, 22; 4:3-4

⁶⁸ Eph. 1:23

⁶⁹ Eph. 1:22

⁷⁰ Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 10:17; 12:12-13, 20; Eph. 4:4; Col. 3:15

⁷¹ 1 Cor. 15:23-28, 51-57

⁷² 1 Cor. 15:22, 35-49, 57

⁷³ John 3:15-18, 36; 14:19; 17:2-3

⁷⁴ John 14:2-3; 17:24; Rev. 22:3

⁷⁵ Matt. 26:29; Mark 14:25; Luke 22:16-18; 23:42; John 18:36

⁷⁶ Isa. 65:17; 66:22; 2 Pet. 3:10, 13; Rev. 20:11; 21:1

⁷⁷ Acts 3:21-26

⁷⁸ Acts 2:37-38; 3:19, 26; 17:30

⁷⁹ Mark 16:16; Acts 8:12

⁸⁰ Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:37-38; 8:12; 10:47-48

⁸¹ 1 Cor. 12:12; Gal. 3:14; Eph. 1:13; 1 John 2:27-28; 4:13

⁸² 2 Cor. 5:17; Col. 2:10

⁸³ 1 Cor. 1:30; Eph. 1:7; 4:32

What Is the Church?

⁸⁴ 2 Cor. 3:14; Gal. 2:4, 16-17; 5:6; Phil. 3:3, 9; Col. 1:4; 2:5; 1Tim. 1:13; 2 Tim. 1:13; 2:10; 3:13, 15; Philemon 8; 1 John 4:15

⁸⁵ 2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 6:11; 8:12; Col. 2:11-15; 1 Cor. 1:2; 1 John 5:20

⁸⁶ Rom. 8:39; 2 Cor. 5:19; Eph. 2:6; 3:12

⁸⁷ Gal. 3:26; Eph. 1:5; 5:1-2

⁸⁸ Rom. 6:23; 1 Cor. 15:18-19, 22, 31; Eph. 1:10-11; 2:7; 1 Thess. 4:14, 16; 2 Tim. 1:1; 1 Pet. 5:10

⁸⁹ Rom. 8:13; 2 Cor. 3:17-18

⁹⁰ Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47-48; John 20:21, 23; Rom. 12:1-2; Eph. 4:1; 5:10, 18; Col. 1:9-10

⁹¹ Matt. 7:15-27; John 14:15, 21, 23-24, 31; 15:10, 14; Rom. 1:6-7; 1 Pet. 1:2

⁹² Matt. 5:48; 6:33; 7:7-11; Col. 3:1; Eph. 5:10

⁹³ Eph. 4:20-24; 5:8-10; Col. 3:5, 7, 10-11, 12a. See also Matt. 7:13; 13:44-46; Mark 8:35; 10:28-31

⁹⁴ Eph. 2:10; Rom. 16:3, 7, 9, 10; 1 Cor. 4:14, 17; 2 Cor. 2:14, 17; 12:19; 13:4; Phil. 3:14; 4:7, 19; Col. 1:28; 2:6-7; 1 Thess. 5:18; 2 Tim. 3:12; 1 Peter 3:16; 1 John 2:4-6; 3:6, 9, 24; 4:16; Rev. 1:9

⁹⁵ John 15:1-8, 16; 16:23-24, 26-27; Gal. 5:22-25; Col. 1:9-10

⁹⁶ Matt. 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-34; Luke 10:25-28; John 15:12-13, 17; Rom. 13:8-10; 1 Cor. 13:1-13; Gal. 5:22; Eph. 5:1-2; 2 Pet. 1:7

⁹⁷ John 15:11; 16:20-22, 24; 17:13; Act 13:52; Rom. 12:12-13, 15; 14:17; 15:13; 1 Cor. 13:6; 2 Cor. 8:2; Gal. 5:22; 1 Pet. 1:8; 1 Thess. 1:6

⁹⁸ Matt. 5:9, 21-26; Rom. 12:18; 13:13; 14:19; 1 Cor. 13:5; Gal. 5:22; Eph. 4:3-6, 26-27, 31-32; 6:15; Col. 3:15

⁹⁹ 1 Cor. 13:4, 7; Rom. 14:1, 10; 15:7; Gal. 5:22; Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:12-13

¹⁰⁰ Matt. 5:4, 7, 21-22, 38-42; Rom. 12:15; 1 Cor. 13:4; Gal. 5:22; Col. 3:12-13; 2 Pet. 1:7

¹⁰¹ Rom. 12:17, 21; Gal. 5:22; 1 Cor. 13:6

¹⁰² Matt. 5:10-12; John 15:18-25; 16:2-4; 17:14; Rom. 12:11, 12; 15:5; 1 Cor. 13:7; Gal. 5:22; Eph. 6:10-17; 2 Pet. 1:6

¹⁰³ Matt. 5:5; Rom. 14:1-23; 15:1-2; 1 Cor. 13:5; Gal. 5:23; Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:12-13

¹⁰⁴ 1 Cor. 13:5, 7; Gal. 5:23; 2 Pet. 1:6

¹⁰⁵ Matt. 5:43-48; 18:21-35; Rom. 12:9, 10; 1 Cor. 13:5; Col. 3:12-13

¹⁰⁶ Matt. 5:3; 25:32-46; Rom. 12:12-13; 1 Cor. 13:4-5; Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 5:3-16; 6:18-20; Titus 3:14

¹⁰⁷ Matt. 5:6, 8, 27-30; Rom. 12:9; 1 Cor. 13:5-6; Eph. 4:17-19; 5:3, 5-8, 11-13; 6:10-17; Col. 3:5-7; Titus 2:12; 3:14; 1 Pet. 2:11; 2 Pet. 1:5-6. See also John 17:14-16; Rom. 12:2, 9; 1 Pet. 2:11; Titus 2:12.

¹⁰⁸ Matt. 6:1-3, 5-13; 7:1-5; Rom. 12:3-7, 10, 16; 1 Cor. 13:4-5; Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:12-13

What Is the Church?

¹⁰⁹ Matt. 6:5-13; 7:7-11; Rom. 12:12; 15:30-32; Eph. 3:19-20; 6:18-20; Col. 3:30; 4:2; 1 Tim. 2:1-3, 8

¹¹⁰ John 6:51-59; Rom. 12:1-2; Eph. 5:19-20; Col. 3:15; Col. 4:2

¹¹¹ Matt. 7:24-27; Eph. 5:10, 18; 6:17; Col. 3:16; 1 Tim. 1:3-7; 4:1-7; 6:3-10, 20-21

¹¹² Matt. 24:14; 28:19; Mark 13:10; 16:15; Luke 9:1-6; 24:47-48; John 17:18; 20:21, 23; Rom. 1:5; 15:18-19; 1 Tim. 3:16. By the power of the Spirit: John 15:27; Luke 24:49; John 20:22; Acts 1:8; Col. 3:30; Eph. 6:19-20. By example: Matt. 5:14-16; Titus 3:12; 1 Pet. 2:12. With healing, signs & wonders: Matt. 4:23; 9:35; 11:5; Mark 16:17-18, 20; Luke 9:1-6; Acts 8:13; Rom. 15:18-19.

¹¹³ 1 Cor. 12:3-4, 13; Eph. 2:18, 22; 4:3-4

¹¹⁴ See above.

¹¹⁵ See fruit of love. Also see Col. 3:14-15.

¹¹⁶ Rom. 12:5,16; 15:5-6; Gal. 1:22; 3:28; Eph. 4:2-8, 27, 29-30; 5:4, 12, 19-21; Col. 3:14-15; 1 Tim. 2:8

¹¹⁷ Eph. 4:11-16; Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-31

¹¹⁸ Leaders: Acts 6:1-7; Eph. 4:7-8, 11-16; 1 Tim. 3:2-13; 4:7-8, 11-13, 16; 5:1-2, 17-22; Titus 1:5-9. Men: Titus 2:2, 6-8. Women: 1 Tim. 2:9-15; 5:3-16; Titus 2:3-5. Family: Eph. 5:21. Husbands & wives: Eph. 5:22-33; Col. 3:19; 1 Pet. 3:1-7. Children: Eph. 6:1-3; Col. 3:20. Fathers: Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21

¹¹⁹ Work: Eph. 6:5-9; Col. 3:22-25; 4:1; 1 Pet. 2:18-25; 1 Tim. 6:1-2; Titus 2:9-10. Government: Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Tim. 2:1-3; Titus 3:1-2; 1 Pet. 2:13-17.

¹²⁰ 1 Pet. 5:1-5

¹²¹ Matt. 10:2-4; Luke 6:13-16; 9:10; 17:5; 22:14; 24:10; Acts 1:2; 2:37, 42, 43; 4:33, 35-37; 5:2, 12, 18, 29, 40; 6:6; 8:1, 14, 18; 9:27; 11:1; 15:2, 4, 6, 22, 23; 16:4; 1 Cor. 9:5; Gal. 1:17; 1 Pet. 1:1; 2 Pet. 1:1; 3:2; Jude 17; Rev. 21:14

¹²² 1 Cor. 12:28-29; Eph. 2:20; 3:5; 4:11; Rev. 18:20

¹²³ Acts 1:26

¹²⁴ Acts 14:4, 14; Rom. 1:1; 11:13; 1 Cor. 1:1; 4:9; 9:1-2; 15:9; 2 Cor. 1:1; 11:5; 12:11-12; Gal. 1:1; Eph. 1:1; Col. 1:1; 1 Thess. 2:6; 1 Tim. 1:1; 2:7; 2 Tim. 1:1, 11; Titus 1:1

¹²⁵ Acts 14:4, 14

¹²⁶ Rom. 16:7

¹²⁷ Rom. 16:7

¹²⁸ 1 Cor. 4:1-9

¹²⁹ 1 Cor. 15:7; Gal. 1:19

¹³⁰ 1 Thess. 2:6 (Silas was with Paul at Thessalonica)

¹³¹ 2 Cor. 11:13; 12:11-12; Rev. 2:2

¹³² Acts 11:27; 13:1; 1 Cor. 12:28-29; 14:29, 32, 37; Eph. 2:20; 3:5; 4:11; Rev. 18:24; 22:6, 9

What Is the Church?

¹³³ Acts 13:1

¹³⁴ Acts 13:1

¹³⁵ Acts 13:1; 15:32

¹³⁶ Acts 13:1

¹³⁷ Acts 13:1

¹³⁸ Acts 15:32

¹³⁹ Acts 15:32

¹⁴⁰ Acts 11:28; 21:10

¹⁴¹ Matt. 7:15; 24:11, 24; Mark 13:22; Luke 6:26; Acts 13:6; 2 Pet. 2:1; 1 John 4:1; Rev. 16:13; 19:20; 20:10

¹⁴² see also Acts 8:40

¹⁴³ 2 Tim. 4:5

¹⁴⁴ Matt. 24:14; Mark 13:10; 14:9; 16:15; 1 Pet. 1:12; 4:6

¹⁴⁵ Luke 9:1-6; Acts 8:25, 40

¹⁴⁶ Acts 20:24; Rom. 1:1; 2:16; 15:19-20; 16:25; 1 Cor. 1:17; 9:16, 18; 15:1; 2 Cor. 10:16; 11:4, 7; Gal. 1:8-9, 11; 2:2; 4:13; Phil. 4:15

¹⁴⁷ John 21:16

¹⁴⁸ 1 Cor. 9:7

¹⁴⁹ Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:1-2

¹⁵⁰ Matt. 28:20; 1 Cor. 14:6, 26; Gal. 6:6; Col. 3:16; 5:12; 1 John 2:27

¹⁵¹ Titus 2:3

¹⁵² Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28-29; Eph. 4:11

¹⁵³ James 3:1

¹⁵⁴ Acts 2:42; 4:2; 5:25, 28, 42

¹⁵⁵ Acts 13:1, 12; 17:19; 20:20; 28:31; 1 Tim. 2:7; 2 Tim. 1:11; 3:10; 4:15

¹⁵⁶ Acts 13:1

¹⁵⁷ 1 Tim. 4:13, 16; 2 Tim. 4:15

¹⁵⁸ 18:24-25

¹⁵⁹ Acts 13:1

¹⁶⁰ Acts 13:1

What Is the Church?

¹⁶¹ Acts 13:1

¹⁶² 1 Tim. 3:2; 5:17; Titus 1:9

¹⁶³ Acts 15:35; 1 Tim. 1:7, 10; 2 Tim. 4:3; Titus 1:11; 2 Pet. 2:1; Rev. 2:14-15, 20, 24

¹⁶⁴ 1 Pet. 4:10-11

¹⁶⁵ Acts 19:22

¹⁶⁶ Acts 19:22

¹⁶⁷ 2 Tim. 1:16-18

¹⁶⁸ Philemon 10-13

¹⁶⁹ Acts 6:1-6; 2 Cor. 8:19-20

¹⁷⁰ Heb. 3:1

¹⁷¹ Matt. 13:57; 21:11; Mark 6:4; Luke 4:27; 7:16; 13:33; 24:19; John 4:19, 44; 6:14; 7:40; 9:17; Acts 3:22-23; 7:37

¹⁷² Matt. 4:23; 9:35; 11:5; Mark. 1:14; Luke 3:18; 4:18; 7:22; 20:1

¹⁷³ Matt. 2:6; 9:36; 26:31; Mark 6:34; 14:27; John 10:2, 11-12, 14, 16; Heb. 13:20; 1 Pet. 2:25; Rev. 2:27; 7:17; 12:5; 19:15.

¹⁷⁴ Matt. 4:23; 5:19; 7:28-29; 8:19; 9:11, 35; 10:24-25; 12:38; 13:54; 17:24; 19:16; 21:23; 22:16, 24, 33, 36; 23:8; 26:18, 26:55; Mark 1:22, 27; 2:13; 4:2, 38; 5:35; 6:6; 9:17, 31, 38; 10:17, 20, 35; 12:14, 19, 32, 38; 13:1; 14:14, 49; Luke 3:12; 4:15, 31; 5:3, 17; 6:6, 40; 7:40; 8:49; 9:38; 10:25; 11:45; 12:13; 13:10, 22; 18:18; 19:39, 47; 20:1, 21, 28, 39; 21:7, 37; 22:11; 23:5; John 1:38; 3:2; 3:10; 7:16-17, 28; 8:4; 11:28; 13:13-14; 18:19; 20:16; 2 John 9-10

¹⁷⁵ 1 Pet. 2:25; 5:1-5

¹⁷⁶ Matt. 20:28; Mark 10:45; Luke 17:27