

What Is The Church?

The Church Defined

- A community of regenerated believers who confess Jesus Christ as Lord, who organize under qualified leadership, gather regularly for preaching and worship, observe the Biblical sacraments of baptism and Communion, are unified by the Spirit, are disciplined for holiness, and scatter to fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great Commission as missionaries to the world for God's glory and their joy.

– Mark Driscoll (Vintage Church)

A Community

Jesus

- Mark 3:13-19
 - ¹³ And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. ¹⁴ And he appointed **twelve** (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach ¹⁵ and have authority to cast out demons.

Post-Jesus

- Acts 1:15 ; 2:1
 - ¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120)
- Acts 2:1
 - ¹When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.

...of regenerated believers

Jesus

- Mark 3:13
 - ¹³ And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, **and they came to him.**

Post-Jesus

- Acts 2:37
 - ³⁷Now when they heard this **they were cut to the heart,** and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"
- John 1:12-13
 - ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, **not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.**

...who confess Jesus Christ as Lord

Jesus

- Mark 8:29
 - ²⁹And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "**You are the Christ.**"

Post-Jesus

- Acts 2:38 ; 41
 - ³⁸And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you **in the name of Jesus Christ** for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit....
...⁴¹So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

...organize under qualified leadership

Jesus

- Mark 1:11
 - ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; **with you I am well pleased.**"

Post-Jesus

- Acts 14:23
 - ²³And when they had appointed **elders for them in every church**, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.
- 1 Timothy 3: 1-7
 - Above reproach, husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent – but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money, manage his own household well, not a recent convert, well thought of by outsiders,
- Titus 1: 5-9
 - Above reproach, husband of one wife, not open to the charge of debauchery and insubordination, not arrogant, not quick tempered, not a drunkard, not violent, not greedy for gain, hospitable, lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, disciplined, hold firm to the word, able to give sound instruction, rebuke those who contradict it

gather regularly for preaching and worship

Jesus

- Mark
 - 1:21 , 22 , 27 , 38
 - 2:13
 - 4:1-2 ; 4:38
 - 5:35
 - 6:2 ; 6:6 ; 6:34
 - 8:31
 - 9:31; 9:38
 - 10:1 , 17 , 20 , 35
 - 11:17-18
 - 12:14 , 19 , 32 , 38
 - 13:1
 - 14:14 , 49

Post-Jesus

- Acts 2:42 ; 46
 - ⁴²And they **devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching** and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers....
⁴⁶And **day by day, attending the temple together** and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,
- Acts 13: 1-3
 - ¹Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. **²While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."** ³Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

...observe the biblical sacraments of baptism and Communion

Jesus

- Mark 1: 9 -10
 - ⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.
- Mark 14: 22-25
 - ²² And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." ²³And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. ²⁴And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

Post-Jesus

- Acts 2:41
 - ⁴¹So those who received his word were **baptized**, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.
- 1 Corinthians 11: 17-33

...are unified by the Spirit

Jesus

- Mark 1:10
 - ¹⁰And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and **the Spirit descending on him like a dove.**

Post-Jesus

- Acts 4:32-33
 - ³²Now the full number of those who believed **were of one heart and soul,** and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. ³³And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and **great grace was upon them all.**
- Romans 8:6
 - ⁶For to set the mind on the flesh is death, **but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.**

...are disciplined for holiness

Jesus

- Mark 8: 31-33
 - ³¹ And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²And he said this plainly. And **Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.** ³³But turning and seeing his disciples, **he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."**

Post-Jesus

- 1 Corinthians 5

...scatter to fulfill the Great Commandment

Jesus

- The Gospels

Post-Jesus

- Acts 2:45
 - ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

...and the Great Commission as missionaries to the world

Jesus

- The Gospels

Post-Jesus

- The Entire Book Of Acts

...for God's Glory

Jesus

- John 17: 1-5
 - ¹When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son **that the Son may glorify you,** ²since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. **I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.** ⁵**And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.**

Post-Jesus

- 1 Corinthians 10:31
 - ³¹So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, **do all to the glory of God.**

...and their joy

Jesus

- John 17: 13
 - ¹³But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, **that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.**

Post-Jesus

- Jude 1:24
 - ²⁴ Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless **before the presence of his glory with great joy,**