

Message Notes

"What is a church? Para=church?"

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction – A Review of a Major Point from last week

What's the point of church?

Ephesians 3:10-11

Missio Dei

Christology

Ecclesiology

Missiology

Two verses that Jesus spoke in the Gospels about the church

Matthew 16:18

Matthew 18:17

What is the universal church?

What is a local church?

What makes up a healthy local church?

1. Scriptural Authority (1 Timothy 3:4-15)
2. Corporate Worship (1 Corinthians 11:17-22)
3. Covenanted Community (Acts 2:42-47)
4. Biblical Leadership (Titus 1:5, also see Acts 20:13-38, 1 Timothy 3:1-7)
5. Mission (John 20:21)
6. Baptism and Lord's Supper (Matthew 28:16-20)

A short history of the church

Is a Bible Study or Parachurch a church?

Application – "What is Jesus asking you to think about his bride?"

Ephesians 3:10-11

¹⁰His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 16:18

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Matthew 18:17

¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

1 Timothy 3:14, 15

¹⁴Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, ¹⁵if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

1 Corinthians 11:17-22

¹⁷In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. ¹⁸In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. ¹⁹No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God's approval. ²⁰When you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat, ²¹for as you eat, each of you goes ahead without waiting for anybody else. One remains hungry, another gets drunk. ²²Don't you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you for this? Certainly not!

Acts 2:42-47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Titus 1:5

The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.

John 20:21

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

A woman in a white wedding dress and veil stands in the center of the frame, positioned within a large, arched opening of a dilapidated stone building. The building's walls are made of weathered brick and stone, with several other arches visible on either side. The ground is a flat, paved surface. The overall scene is captured in a monochromatic, sepia-toned style, evoking a sense of history and decay. The woman's dress is long and flowing, with a full skirt and a long train. She holds a small bouquet of flowers in front of her. The background through the archway shows a glimpse of a wooded area with bare trees, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting.

the affection of Jesus: what was he thinking
by making the church his bride?

A FOUR WEEK MESSAGE SERIES ON THE CHURCH

January 25th - February 15th, 2009

photo by Jim Blackie (cc - creative commons use)

What's the point of church?



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Ephesians 3:10-11

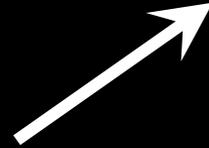
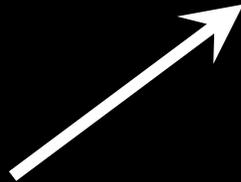
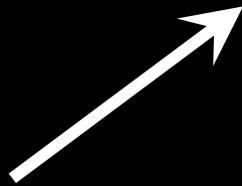
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MISSIOLOGY
(Ministry)

ECCLESIOLOGY
(Church)

CHRISTOLOGY
(Gospel)

MISSEO DEI
(God's Mission)







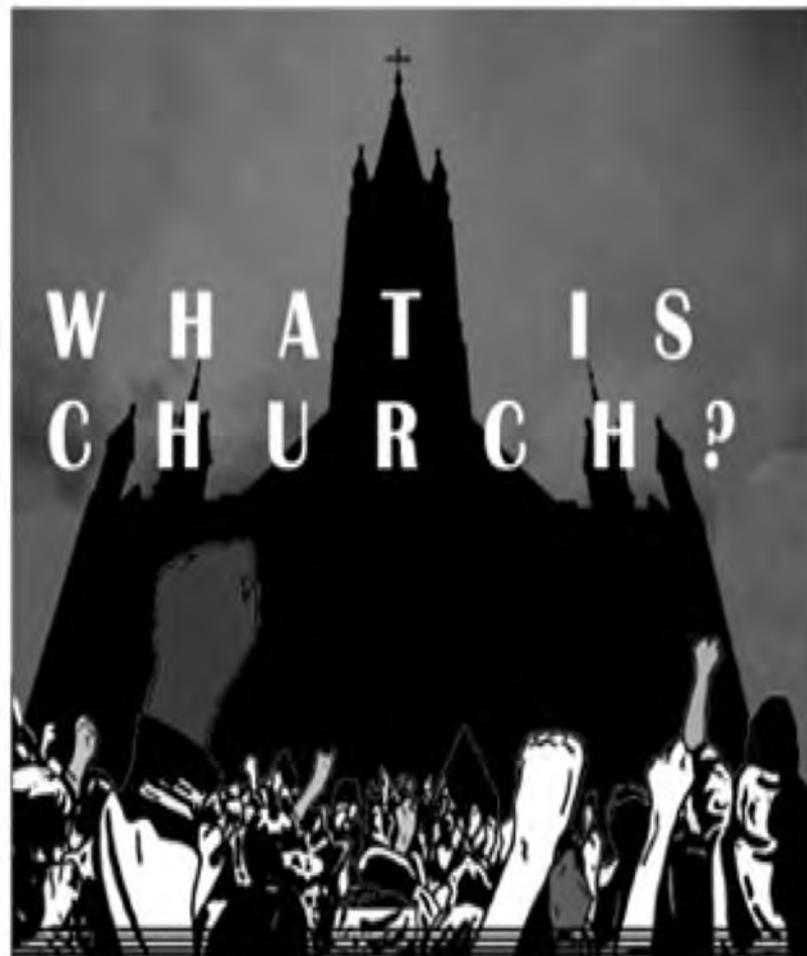
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MINNESOTA



mission:sixteen/18



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What is the universal church?



What is the universal church?

The universal church is the
sum total of all believers in
Jesus Christ



What is a local church?



What is a local church?

Local churches are a subset of the universal church, bounded by geography and time.



A Local Church – Svenska Missions Templet 1895



What makes up a healthy local church?



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1. Scriptural Authority

1 Timothy 3:14, 15

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2. Corporate Worship

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6. Baptism & Lord's Supper

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1 Corinthians 11:17-22 (Lord's Supper)

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in a parachurch a Church?*



Church in the New Testament

Early Schisms and Heresies

Judaizers legalism

Gnostics humanity of Jesus, deep knowledge

Marcionites Jehovah an evil god

Montanists charismatic chaos

Novatianists purity of the church

Arians denied the deity of Jesus

The Early Church Drifts...

Constantine – Edict of Milan 313 A.D.

Leadership/Church Organization

Doctrine of Baptism

Asceticism, Monasticism

Creeds, Liturgy, Church Calendar,
Sacramentalism

Sacerdotalism/Priesthood - The Lord's
Supper becomes a sacrifice

The Reformation

John Wyclif - England, 1324-1384

John Huss - Bohemia, 1374-1415

Martin Luther - Germany, 1483-1546

Ulrich Zwingli - Switzerland, 1484-1531

William Tyndale - England, 1494-1536

John Calvin - France 1509-1564

John Knox - Scotland 1505-1572

John Wyclif 1324-1384



Translated Vulgate into English

Opposed indulgences, idols, priesthood

The Pope is the antichrist

Followers known as Lollards

Declared heretics 1401

1428 bones dug up, crushed and burned

John Huss 1374-1415 Bohemia

Influenced by Wyclif

Bible the only authority

Only God can forgive sin

Hussites virtually wiped out by the

Inquisition

Brethren and Moravian Churches



John Huss Burned at the stake, 1415



Martin Luther 1483-1546

Augustinian Monk

95 Theses in Wittenburg

Studied Romans

Faith Only

Scripture Only

Predestination

Book of James a "book of straw."

Kept much of Catholic worship practices



Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531)

Swiss Reformer

More radical than Luther

Rejected almost all Catholic forms of
worship.

Differed on the Lord's Supper

His influence led to the Anabaptists

Principle influence on John Calvin



The Anabaptist Movement (1530's and later)

The Radical Reformation

Menno Simmons 1496-1561



Martyrdom of Anabaptists

The Anabaptist Movement (cont.)

Baptism by immersion of adults after confession of faith for salvation.

Bible the only authority.

Separation of church and state.

Emphasized both life and doctrine

Pacifists (usually)

Many martyrs

Began evangelistic, but became exclusive and withdrawn. (Mennonites, Amish, Hutterites)

Tended to be very schismatic

John Calvin 1509-1564

Influenced most strongly by Zwingli

Strongly influenced by theology of Augustine

Most influential theologian of the Reformation

Emphasized Historical/Covenantal Theology

Wrote *Institutes of Christian Religion*

Established an autocratic theocracy in Geneva

Best known for his emphasis on Predestination

TULIP



American Christianity

By this time, the Protestant church is MULTI-denominational

Fueled by GREAT AWAKENINGS:

First (c. 1730–1770) (J. Edwards, J. Wesley, G. Whitefield)

Second (c. 1790–1840) (C. Finney, A. Nettleton, L. Beecher)

Fundamentalist – Modernist Debate

Liberalism creeps into the church:

“Higher Criticism” / Bible full of myths

Evolution solves the problem of Creator

Jesus is not the only way to salvation

**Major effort by those who hold the Bible as true to fight this in
the 1920-1930's**

Rise of Three Americans



1933



1945



1951

Strengths and Weaknesses

STRENGTHS:

A rise in a personal relationship with Jesus

A return to the Bible alone

A rebuke to many dead, dry churches

A desire to see more and more people impacted for Jesus Christ

Allowing young people to be involved and developed as leaders

Strengths and Weaknesses

WEAKNESSES:

Not a strong eldership to provide protection and spiritual authority
in the lives of people

Does not prepare them for a life of ministry

Instead of working for the betterment of the local church, many of these groups
have bypassed the local church since it has so many problems.

*Is a Bible study or a group of believers
in a parachurch a Church?*



*Is a Bible study or a group of believers
in a parachurch a Church?*

Universal – YES!!



*Is a Bible study or a group of believers
in a parachurch a Church?*

Universal – YES!!

Local – NO!!



Why do you think local churches don't function the way they should?

What can you do to understand the local church better?

Are you invested in a life-time of kingdom living and ministry, or just thinking short term?

If the church is called the 'bride' of Christ, how can you love what Jesus loves more?