

Doctrine of the Church

1. The first usage of the term “*church*” in the New Testament is found in Matthew 18:17 in association with church discipline.
 - *Matthew 18:17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.*
2. While men add numbers to the role of the visible church, the Lord adds to the true invisible church of which number no man knows.
 - *Acts 2:47 Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*
3. A holy fear characterized the early church for holiness of heart was demanded.
 - *Acts 5:11 And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.*
4. A single reference is made to the Old Testament saints as being the Church in the Wilderness.
 - *Acts 7:38 This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:*
5. The blood of martyrs has been the seed of the church.
 - *Acts 8:1 And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church, which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.*
 - *Acts 8:3 As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.*
6. The true Church of Christ is not Jewish in nature but consists of Jew and Gentile.
 - *Acts 11:22 Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch.*
7. The worst of sinners are to be welcomed into the church provided there is gospel repentance.
 - *Acts 11:26 And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.*

8. Political persecution should not surprise the church at any point in human history.
 - *Acts 12:1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.*
9. The church is to pray for political prisoners.
 - *Acts 12:5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.*
10. The early church was gifted with prophets.
 - *Acts 13:1 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.*
11. There are to be no secrets within the church. Certainly the grace of God is to be made known to all when it has been manifested.
 - *Acts 14:27 And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.*
12. The church is to engage in missionary outreach efforts.
 - *Acts 15:3 And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren.*
13. Missionaries should be accountable to the church that sent them out.
 - *Acts 15:4 And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them.*
14. God's people should always seek out others of like mind and faith.
 - *Acts 18:22 And when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up, and saluted the church, he went down to Antioch.*
15. Local assemblies are to be ruled over by elders or pastors.
 - *Acts 20:17 And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church.*

16. The primary responsibility of the pastor is to feed the flock of God.

- *Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*

17. Women had a vital role in the early church and still do today. Phebe was probably a deaconess.

- *Romans 16:1 I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea:*

18. Home churches preceded the establishing of common buildings used for worship.

- *Romans 16:5 Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Salute my wellbeloved Epaphroditus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ.*
- *Philemon 2 And to our beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellowsoldier, and to the church in thy house:*

19. Multiple denominations did not exist in the first century though diverse local assemblies did.

- *1 Corinthians 1:2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:*
- *2 Thessalonians 1:1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: etc.*

20. Righteous judgment on controversial matters is to be rendered in the local assembly that pertains to its body life.

- *1 Corinthians 6:4 If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church.*

21. Christians are to be careful not to give offense to the Church of God by word or conduct.

- *1 Corinthians 10:32 Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:*

22. Sin can disrupt the harmony of the local assembly.

- *1 Corinthians 11:18 For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it.*

23. If the heart is not guarded, a fundamental contempt for the church can be manifested.

- *1 Corinthians 11:22 What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? Or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not.*

24. God is vitally interested in the Church. In matchless grace He gives spiritually gifted individuals for the work of the ministry.

- *1 Corinthians 12:28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.*

25. The purpose of spiritual gifts is to edify the church.

- *1 Corinthians 14:4 He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.*

26. The local church is to be protected from the abuse of spiritual gifts inappropriately used.

- *1 Corinthians 14:5 I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.*

27. Christians should seek those spiritual gifts which will be most profitable to the church.

- *1 Corinthians 14:12 Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.*
- *1 Corinthians 14:19 Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.*
- *1 Corinthians 14:28 But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.*

28. In the early church some women become so disruptive they had to be reminded to be silent and exercise more self-control.

- *1 Corinthians 14:35 And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.*

29. The apostle Paul came to regret his early persecution of the church and a principle is established: conversion brings sorrow for past hurts. Christians have sensitive hearts.

- *1 Corinthians 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.*
30. A home church may become the nucleus of a larger assembly.
- *1 Corinthians 16:19 The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.*
31. All who were identified with the local assembly were called saints. It is a wonderful expression of self-image.
- *2 Corinthians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia:*
32. Honesty with past failures is healthy within the body of Christ.
- *Galatians 1:13 For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it:*
33. Jesus Christ is the true head of the church.
- *Ephesians 1:22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,*
33. The church has a glorious future, which does not include apostasy.
- *Ephesians 3:10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,*
 - *Ephesians 3:21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*
34. As Christ is the Head of the Church so He is the Savior of the body which means He will not let sin destroy the saints.
- *Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the Saviour of the body.*
35. In tender and intimate language the church is considered to be the bride of Christ.
- *Ephesians 5:24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.*
 - *Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*

- *Ephesians 5:29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:*

- *Ephesians 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

36. Sometimes other religious zealots will persecute the church.

- *Philippians 3:6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.*

37. The glory of Christ is manifested in the church.

- *Colossians 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*

37. The church is declared in Scripture to be the body of Christ.

- *Colossians 1:24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:*

38. No matter how small an assembly may be, it is still “the church.”

- *Colossians 4:15 Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the church which is in his house.*

- *Colossians 4:16 And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.*

38. Spiritual blessings of grace and peace should be bestowed upon other assemblies.

- *1 Thessalonians 1:1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

41. Those who cannot rule their own homes are not to be allowed to rule the church of God.

- *1 Timothy 3:5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)*

42. A proper decorum is to be maintained within the local assembly.

- *1 Timothy 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*

43. Unnecessary burdens are not to be placed on the church.

- *1 Timothy 5:16 If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed.*

44. Christ alone is to be honored with words of praise and songs in the church.

- *Hebrews 2:12 Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.*

45. Pastors are to pray for the sick within the assembly.

- *James 5:14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:*

46. The church can be found in the midst of the most decadent society.

- *1 Peter 5:13 The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son.*

47. Spiritual labor for the Lord is not to be forgotten by the church.

- *3 John 6 Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well:*

48. Sometimes disruptive personalities wrack havoc in the church.

- *3 John 9 I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.*
- *3 John 10 Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.*

49. Jesus Christ walks in the midst of His churches and has a message for each.

- *Revelation 2:1 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;*
- *Revelation 2:8 And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;*
- *Revelation 2:12 And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;*

- *Revelation 2:18 And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;*
- *Revelation 3:1 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.*
- *Revelation 3:7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;*
- *Revelation 3:14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;*