
“Come, Let Us Reason Together” About the Bible
INTRODUCTION—What Is the Church of the New Testament?

Estimated Reading Time: 5 – 7 minutes.

Let’s Talk About the Church

When you hear the word **“church,”** different thoughts may come to mind. Some think of a building with a steeple. Others picture a denomination or religious group. But **what does the Bible actually say about the church**—especially the church that Jesus spoke about?

This Bible study series is meant to help you explore a very important question:

“What Is the Church of the New Testament?”

And just as importantly, **why does it matter to you personally?**

What Is a Church?

Let’s start with a basic definition.

The English word **church** comes from the Greek word **ekklesia**, which means **a called-out assembly or congregation**. In the Bible, it never referred to a physical building. It always referred to *people*—specifically, those who were called out of the world to belong to God through Jesus Christ.

When the Bible speaks of “the church,” it’s speaking of the saved—God’s people.

“And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

—Acts 2:47

In this verse, the church is made up of those who are saved. That’s personal! That means *you* and *I* are meant to be part of it—not just attending a place, but *being* the church as members of God’s family.

Jesus Christ Built a Church

Jesus Himself promised to build His church:

“...on this rock I will build My church...”

—Matthew 16:18

Notice something important here:

Jesus said, “*My church.*” It belongs to Him. He is the founder, the owner, the head, and the foundation. The church was not started by a man, a council, or a denomination—it was started by Christ Himself.

And He built it for a reason: to bring together those who believe in Him, follow Him, and are saved by Him.

God Wants You in His Church

God’s plan of salvation includes more than just individual belief. His plan includes belonging to a *body—a spiritual family*—called the church.

You are not meant to be a Christian all on your own. God designed His church to be a place of spiritual support, worship, truth, and unity.

Why This Study Matters

In today’s world, there are thousands of churches with different names, beliefs, and practices. That can be confusing and overwhelming. But the New Testament presents *one church*—established by Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit, through His apostles, and revealed in His Word.

That church still exists today—not as a denomination, but as a body of faithful believers who follow the pattern found in Scripture.

Throughout this study series, we’ll explore:

- **What Is the Church in the New Testament?**
- **Whose Church Is It?**
Understanding ownership and foundation.
- **When Was It Established?**
Looking at its origin in history.
- **What Is Its Purpose?**
Why the church exists in the world and in your life.
- **Who Is Its Head?**
Identifying who has authority over the church.
- **How Is It Organized?**
Learning about its structure, leadership, and roles.
- **Who Has Authority in It?**
Exploring how decisions are made and who guides the church.
- **What About Membership in It?**

Discovering how one becomes part of Christ's church.

- **What About Its Worship Services?**
Seeing how the church worshiped in the New Testament.
- **How Do Other Churches Differ from It?**
Gaining clarity on how modern practices compare to the Bible's teaching.

A Personal Invitation

If you've ever asked, "What does God want me to do?" or "Where do I belong in His plan?"—this study is for you.

We're not trying to promote a human organization or a man-made tradition. **We're going back to the Bible to understand the church that is described in the pages of the New Testament**—and how *you* can be part of it.

As we begin, I invite you to keep your heart open and your Bible close. Let's seek the truth together.

Let's Reflect

- Have you ever thought of the church as more than just a building? **Yes | No**
- Do you see the church as essential to your relationship with God and His Son? **Yes | No**
- Are you willing to learn and accept what the Bible says about the church? **Yes | No**

Let's journey together into the Word of God to learn what it means to be part of **the Church of the New Testament**.
