

Minute Messages: What is the Church?

In the original language of the New Testament, the church is the ἐκκλησία (*ekklesiā*), which means a called-out assembly or body of people.

Christ's church is a special called-out body that Jesus built Himself.

Matthew 16:18 – “I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”

The “rock” upon which Jesus built His church is the confession made by Peter and all who believe in Jesus.

Matthew 16:16 – Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus builds His church by adding members to it as He saves them.

Acts 2:47 – ... And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Jesus purchased the church with His own blood when He died on the cross.

Acts 20:28 – “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”

The church is the body of Christ, for He is the head and authority over all things to the church.

Ephesians 1:22-23 – ²²And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

The church is the body of the saved because Jesus is the Savior of the body.

Ephesians 5:23 – For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.

The church is the bride of Christ, for He loves the church and gave Himself up for her so that He might sanctify her and present her to Himself as a holy bride.

Ephesians 5:25-27 – ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, ²⁶so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

The church is the household of God and the pillar and support of the truth. It is God's family.

1 Timothy 3:15 – but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

The Bible says many more things that show how important the church is to Jesus. Is the church important to you?