

# Church

[John 14:16](#) (Comforter – παράκλητος)

[John 14:20](#) “*At that day (Pentecost) you shall know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.*” (This is a prophecy of the Indwelling Christ.)

- I. The church is the place for the dissemination of Spiritual soul food.
- II. The original churches met in homes.
- III. The church was established for the purpose of spiritual advancement.
- IV. God has ordained that there be a shepherd-teacher for the local congregation.
- V. When a congregation has grown consistently over a period of years, the forms of worship will be manifested:
  1. Grace Orientation
  2. Gratitude
  3. Witnessing
  4. Giving
  5. Teaching
  6. Service – Individual spiritual gifts will be functioning
- VI. The word “church” (ἐκκλησία) is used five ways in God’s Word:
  1. Citizens gathering for political affairs, legislative meetings. [Acts 19:25, 29, 32.](#)
  2. In the OT, the word was used for the assembly of Israel. [Acts 7:38](#)

## Church (Continued)

3. There is a reference to the synagogue as the ἐκκλησία in [Matt. 18:17](#). Jews met to worship. The church actually did not exist at that time.
  4. The body of Christ is made up of all believers – Church Universal revealed in [Eph. 1:22, 23](#); [5:25-27](#); [Col. 1:17, 18](#).
  5. The church is used to mean a local group. This is the geographical, visible church made up of believers and unbelievers. [I Cor. 1:2](#); [Rev. 2, 3](#); [I Thess. 1:1](#).
- VII. The church began on the day of Pentecost and terminates with the Rapture. [I Thess. 4:13-18](#); [I John 3:1, 2](#); [John 14:1-3](#)
- VIII. The mystery character of the church is depicted in the Epistles – [Eph. 3:1-6](#); [Col. 1:25, 26](#); [Rom. 16:25, 26](#). Mystery does not mean unknown, but hidden in the past (OT) but now revealed.
- IX. Born-again Jews on the day of Pentecost were placed in union with Jesus Christ and baptized with the Holy Spirit. [Acts 1:5](#); [John 7:39](#). At the departure of Christ (Ascension) the Church actually began.
- X. The church age ends with the Rapture of the Royal family. The following verses show that at the Second Advent, the church will come back to the earth with Christ: [I Thess. 4:13-18](#); [Col. 2:14, 15](#) compared to [Rev. 19:6-8](#); [Zech. 13:2](#), [I Thess. 3:13](#). At the end of the church age the Bride – in resurrected body will be glorified, just as at the beginning of the church age, Christ – in resurrected body was glorified.