

CALL to PRAYER - pray that we would not be a church in name only

## *Ephesians 2:17-22 - Ecclesiology and Mess-iology (part. 1)*

INTRO - New series titled with a \$10 word and a made-up word. Ecclesiology = study of the church. *Ekklesia* is the Greek word for *church*. 2 words put together - *ek* = out of/from (origin) & ...*kaleo* = called/ to bid or call forth. CHURCH = "from the called" - or - "the called-out ones". Ecclesiology/ecclesiastical are just big English words derived from a Greek word for church. Mess-iology is a made-up word = *study of messes*. Churches can be messy places (SBC scandal). We are going to do a study on The Church...going to define the church (what is the church?)... We will look at what the Bible says about church leadership & church membership. Then we are going delve into the mess of the church and ask, "How do you deal with sin in the church?" Ecclesiology & Mess-iology...I pray it will be instructive, challenging and profitable for CBBC.

We begin by trying to define the church. The *CHURCH* is a group of assembled Believers which the Bible describes as a Building, a Body, and a Bride. Only consider the first ~~two~~ today.

### *A GROUP OF BELIEVERS*

1. The church is A PEOPLE. The church is a people group.
  - a. The church is a certain category of people
  - b. There are all kinds of people in this world. (Do you like to "people watch"?)
    - i. Illinois river yesterday - different people...own music...colorful language
  - c. *The Church* is its own unique kind of people. 1 Peter 2:9-10 (*peculiar people* - KJV)
    - i. We are not like everybody else. (Rom. 12:2 - Christian culture - James 4:4b)
2. The church is A BELIEVING PEOPLE
  - a. What makes the church so conspicuous is their confession.
    - i. Their profession of faith makes them a peculiar people
  - b. Of all the people on the planet there is a unique *people group* that believes a particular message which most people have rejected
  - c. The gospel call has gone out into the world (Rom. 10:18 - Is. 52:7)
    - i. Some people have responded to that call.
  - d. The CHURCH = "*the called out ones*"
    - i. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who calls for His sheep John 10:2-4
    - ii. The sheep hear Jesus' voice. They respond, follow, and gather to Him
3. The church is AN ASSEMBLED PEOPLE
  - a. The church is a gathered group of believers (sheep pen)
    - i. They have been called out from the world...
      1. ...and they gather together as a group of believers
    - ii. Acts 7:38 *church* - KJV *assembly* - NIV *congregation* - NASB
      1. *Church* is when *the called-out ones* congregate together
    - iii. Those who refuse to "meet together" are saying they are not part of that peculiar group. "Not my people group." Who are your people?

- b. The church is a called people...who congregate at a certain place...and are unified around One Certain Person.
  - i. This people group gathers together regularly and religiously
  - ii. *The Called* congregate around Christ and have church
- 4. The church is an assembled CITIZENRY and gathered FAMILY
  - a. Ephesians 2:19
    - i. Citizenry - Philippians 3:20
      - 1. no longer foreigners/aliens
    - ii. Family - 1 Peter 2:10 God's household
  - b. Church is a family reunion and a "national holiday" for Christian citizens
    - i. Church shows Kingdom citizenship & family relationship
- 5. The church is comprised of APPARENT Believers and LEGITIMATE Believers
  - a. This is usually described as the "visible church" and the "invisible church"
    - i. *Visible / Invisible* can be misleading for there are no secret Christians
      - 1. Can be difference in external -vs- internal reality - Matt. 23:27-28
  - b. Not everyone on the church roll is a real Christian
    - i. The apparent church comprises all those who have a profession of faith
    - ii. But many only have a verbal faith with no veracity of faith - Matt. 7:21
      - 1. Christians in name only (Judas/Demas/1 John 2:19)
      - 2. Wolves in sheep's clothing - Matt. 7:15 2 Cor. 11:13-15 Rev. 2:2
      - 3. Synagogues of Satan Rev. 2:9
        - a. Church in the name doesn't guarantee the same
  - c. We are to strive for a "Believers Church" and a "Pure Church"
    - i. Only those who've answered the call and are walking worthy of the calling are to counted being in the Christian Church
- 6. The church is UNIVERSAL and LOCAL
  - a. *The Universal Church* includes all the redeemed from all time, all OT & NT saints, the full number of the elect... all the names written in the Lambs Book of Life ... all the called and all who answered the call...every believer
    - i. ("church in the wilderness" - OT) John 10:16 Heb. 12:22-23
  - b. The Local Church
    - i. "Church" is mentioned over 100 x's in NT - mostly referring to the local church
    - ii. Church of Rome, Corinth, Ephesus, Thessalonica...7 churches in Asia...
      - 1. Rom. 16:3-5 church that met a Prisca and Aquila's house
    - iii. The church is a local group of gathered believers
      - 1. A people group who share the same citizenry and family of faith
      - 2. They share a common belief in the only Savior
      - 3. They have answered the call and living worthy of the calling
      - 4. They gather together at a local place
    - iv. The church is:
      - 1. A called people (peculiar people)...
      - 2. ...who assemble at a particular place...
      - 3. ...unified around the One Person of the Lord Jesus Christ