



Who are these people?



Why they here?



How did they get here?



How did I get here?





The Church

What does the word
“church” mean?



Key Word

Assembly



Key Idea

The C/church is an assembly of believers that gathers.



Key Point

The Church is both universal and local.



Key Application

We must gather.



“Church”



ekklesia



ek + kaleo



out + call



Background of Ekklesia



Greco-Roman World



A political assembly



ekklesia + polis



Just an assembly



Acts 19:32,39,41



Key Point

An *ekklesia* is an assembly.



Old Testament



edah = synagogue



qahal = *ekklesia*



Universal Church



Acts 8:3

Pew Bible Page: 916



Acts 9:31

Pew Bible Page: 918



Heb 12:22-24



Eph 4:4

Pew Bible Page: 977



Eph 4:4 (ESV)

There is one body and one Spirit—
just as you were called to the one hope
that belongs to your call—”



Apostle's Creed

"I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the *holy catholic Church,*
the communion of saints"



Nicene Creed

"We believe in ***one holy catholic***
and apostolic Church."



Baptist Faith & Message 2000

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes **all** of **the** **redeemed** of all the ages, **believers** from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.



Danger

Consumerism

Treating the local church as optional



Danger

Consumerism

Neglecting participating in and contributing to the body of Christ



Local Church



Acts 15:41

Pew Bible Page: 924



Acts 16:5

Pew Bible Page: 925



Baptist Faith & Message 2000

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous **local congregation** of **baptized believers**, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth.



Danger

Competition

Treating other churches
as competitors



Danger

Competition

Protecting territory rather than
investing in partners



Key Idea

The C/church is an assembly of believers that gathers.



Key Application

We must gather.

