

Firm Foundation: The Church

Acts 2:41-47; 4:32-37; 5:12-16

Where did the idea of “church” from?

QAHAL (“assembly”) = Israel as the congregation or assembly of the Lord (Deut. 23:1; 1 Chron. 28:8)

SYNAGOGUE (συναγωγή, synagōgē). A place for assembly and worship in Jewish communities

“... and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.” - Matthew 16:18 (NLT)

“For where two or three gather together as my followers (or in my name), I am there among them.” - Matthew 18:20

Who is a part of the “church”?

The *church* (ekklesia) is a group of people that have repented of their sins, turned to God, and have been baptized in the name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Ek (“out of”) + *kaleo* (“to call”) = *ekklesia* (the called out ones) = *qahal*

“Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day...” - Acts 2:41

“... the people (Samaritans & Simon the Sorcerer)) believed Philip’s message of Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the

name of Jesus Christ. As a result, many men and women were baptized.” - Acts 8

Baptism (baptizo) identifies us with Christ and the community of believers. It is the first step of obedience as a disciple of Jesus and an outward sign of your inward faith.

What is “church”

- The Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:12-31; Eph. 4:4; Col. 3:15)
- The Building of God (Matt. 16:18; 1 Peter 2:5; Eph. 2:20; 1 Cor. 6:19ff).
- The Bride of Christ (Eph. 5:25-27, 31-2; 2 Cor. 11:2; Rev. 19:7; 22:17)

The First “Church”

41 Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all. 42 All the believers *devoted themselves* to **the apostles’ teaching**, and to **fellowship**, and to **sharing in meals** (including the Lord’s Supper), and to **prayer**. 43 A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. 44 And all the believers **met together in one place** and **shared everything** they had. 45 They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. 46 They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—47 all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. *And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.*

The First “Church”

Established & Built Upon the Person & Work of Jesus

A Learning Community

A Family-style (Koinonia) Community

A Generous Community

A Prayerful community

A Growing Community

What about the church today?

Verses for Further Study

Matthew 22:34-40 - The Great Commandment

Matthew 28:18-20 - The Great Commission

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 - You are the Temple of the Living God

Ephesians 2:14-21; 4:2-6, 13-15 - A unified body of believers

Galatians 3:23-29 - There is no longer Jew or Gentile

My Next Steps:

- ☐ Say “Yes!” to Jesus
- ☐ Baptized upon that confession
- ☐ Attend Discover Crosspoint
- ☐ Find your places to serve
- ☐ B.L.E.S.S.
- ☐ Other: _____