

THE CHURCH THE HOUSE OF GOD

Introduction:

1. The New Testament uses many terms and concepts to describe the church of Christ.
2. As members of the church, it is important for us to know what the church is – and what the Lord expects it to be.
3. Thus, as we study these divine descriptions of the church, we will learn how we are to conduct ourselves individually and as a congregation of God's people.
4. The role of the church in God's plan of redemption...
 - a. Eternal purpose
 - b. Connected to the crucifixion
 - c. Result of the resurrection
 - d. Established on Pentecost
5. Descriptive Designations of the Church:
 - a. "The Called Out"
 - b. The Body of Christ
 - c. The Bride of Christ
 - d. The Kingdom of Christ
 - e. The Saved
 - f. The House of God

I. The Family of God

(1 Timothy 3:14-15)

- A. The Greek word for 'house' has two meanings:
 1. A dwelling; an inhabited house; a building; a dwelling place; temple
 2. A household; those who dwell in a house; all the persons forming one family
- B. In this passage, Paul writes of the household or family of God (cf. Acts 11:14; 16:15, 31).
- C. There is a sense in which all men are the children of God – because He is Creator (cf. Acts 17:28; Heb. 12:9 – "*Father of spirits*").
- D. However, there is a special significance to the relationship of a Christian as a child of God (Rom. 8:14-15; Gal. 4:5; Eph. 1:5; Matt. 5:44-45).
- E. Note that Paul teaches that there is a way that men ought to behave in the family of God.

II. God the Father

(Matthew 7:9-11)

- A. In the spiritual family of God, God is the Father.
- B. He is the head of the house and the authority over the family (1 Cor. 11:3).
- C. His Word is authoritative and final (John 12:48).
- D. He is the provider for the needs of the family (John 3:16; Heb. 1:1; Matt. 6:33).
- E. Thus, He deserves reverence and respect from His family (Mal. 1:6; Heb. 12:9, 28).

III. Jesus the Elder Brother

(Hebrews 2:9-13)

- A. Jesus is the Christian's brother because He lived as both God and man.
- B. He is the elder brother because of His exalted nature (Eph. 2:19; 3:15; Heb. 3:6).
- C. As an elder brother, Jesus is the role model for the Christian (Matt. 4:19; 16:24; 1 Cor. 11:1; Heb. 12:2-3).

Biblical Description of the Church

Lesson Ten

1 Timothy 3:14-15

D. The Christian shares in the inheritance of Christ (Rom. 8:16-17).

IV. Christian Brothers and Sisters

(1 Timothy 5:1-2)

- A. As part of the same spiritual family, Christians are to treat one another as brothers and sisters (Matt. 23:8).
- B. Love (John 13:35; 1 Pet. 1:22; 2:17)
- C. Compassion (Heb. 10:34; 1 Pet. 3:8; 1 John 3:17; Jude 22)
- D. Service (Gal. 6:10; Matt. 25:40; Heb. 6:10)
- E. Edification (Matt. 18:11-20)
- F. Forgiveness (Matt. 18:21-35; Eph. 4:32)