

# Facts About The Church

## Part Two

Matthew 18:17

Introduction:

1. The word “church” comes from the Greek word *ecclesia* (ἐκκλησία) which means, “those who are called out of” or “those who are summoned.”
2. A good way to learn the meaning of a biblical word or concept is to observe how it is used throughout Scripture.
3. The word “church” is first used in Matthew 16:18-19.
  - a. The Church is built by (and belongs to) Christ.
  - b. The Church is built upon Christ.
  - c. The Church will overcome death.
  - d. The Church is the Kingdom of Christ.
  - e. The Church is guided by the doctrine of Christ.
4. The second use of the word “church” is in Matthew 18:17...

### I. The Church Is a Congregation of People

- A. Jesus said, “*Tell it unto the church.*”
- B. This teaches us that the church has the ability to hear (and speak).
  1. Thus, the church is not a building made of wood or stone.
  2. The church is able to experience emotion (Acts 5:11).
  3. The church is made up of men and women (Acts 8:1-3).
  4. The church is within the saved (Luke 17:20-21; Acts 2:47).
- C. Some important implications of this teaching are...
  1. The meetinghouse of the church is not holy.
  2. The Christian is always representing the church.

### II. The Church Is Ordained to Teach

- A. Jesus said, “*If he neglect to hear the church.*”
- B. Thus, the church has the responsibility to teach the doctrine of Christ.
  1. The church upholds the Truth (1 Timothy 3:15).
  2. The church shines forth the Gospel (Phil. 2:15-16; Mt. 5:16).
  3. The church evangelizes (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 8:1-4).
- C. Some important implications of this teaching are...
  1. Preaching the Gospel is not the responsibility of any manmade institution!
  2. The only way for the church to speak is for **me** to speak!

### III. The Church Is Designed to Discipline

- A. Jesus said, “*Let him be unto thee as an Heathen.*”
- B. The word “heathen” refers to the Gentiles – one outside of God’s family and fold of safety.
- C. Church discipline is a command.

1. Those who cause division must be marked (Rom. 16:17-18).
  2. Those who persist in sin without repentance must be delivered to Satan (1 Cor. 5:4-5, 13).
  3. Those who walk disorderly must be withdrawn from (2 Thes. 3:6).
  4. Those who disobey must be removed from the company of the church (2 Thes. 3:14-15).
  5. Those who teach and/or practice false doctrine must be avoided (1 Tim. 6:3-5; 2 John 9-11).
- D. Some important implications of this teaching are...
1. Christian fellowship is a privilege of faithful membership.
  2. Our relationship with the church reflects our relationship with God.
  3. The church must be willing to protect itself.
  4. The goal of church discipline is salvation; its motivation is love.

Conclusion: *Don't you want to be a part of the church described in the Bible?  
Aren't you blessed to know about the church that Jesus built?*