



Christian Life Center, A Foursquare Church • DiscipleshipDevelopment.org

Part 2 • THE CHURCH REDEFINED

In the past decade, the Postmodern era has philosophically and ideologically catapulted us into a realm of the absurd and the irrational. In fact, humanity as a whole is being redefined. More and more, “modern man” is escalating his quest to eradicate a personal, Creator from any connection with His existence. (The American Humanist organization’s slogan is, “Good Without a God.”) Parts of America are rapidly becoming “post Christian” in values and ideology. And the Church is not exempt from that redefinition.

The word “church” is a translation of the Greek word “ecclesia,” a people who are called *out* of the world and *into* God’s Kingdom. The root meaning is not a building, but people. (Ephesians 2:19–22) Notice Paul’s greeting in Romans 16:3-5 *Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,... Likewise greet the church that is in their house.*

Following are a few characteristics of the Church.

- 1. The New Testament Church was birthed in the power of the Spirit and is the most powerful institution in the world.**
 - Acts 2:2-4 *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting... And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*
- 2. The foundation of the Church is Jesus Christ as the Living Son of God.** He is the One who builds His Church. He has

given the Church His power and authority and all the power of death and the devil will/can not prevail against it.

- Matthew 16:16-19 *Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it...*

- 3. The Church is the Body of Christ reaching around the world.** We are His ambassadors, His witnesses in the earth.
 - Ephesians 4:15-16 *...but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ — from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies,...* (2 Corinthians 5:20; 1 John 4:17)
- 4. The Church is to be a beacon of God’s glory as our society grows darker.** God has called the Church to challenge the Kingdom of darkness.
 - Isaiah 60:1-2 *Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you.*
- 5. As members of His Body, the Church, we have been given the great privilege of sharing God’s love with a dying world.**
 - Luke 19:9-10 *And Jesus said to him (Zacchaeus), “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”* (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:6-8)

Our prayer... *Lord, we confess our shortcomings and receive Your forgiveness and Your Glory. Let Your Kingdom come and let Your will be done in and through Your Church as it is in Heaven!*