

What Is the Church?

1. The first time the church is mentioned in the New Testament is in Matthew 16:18, *“And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My **church**, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”*
2. The Greek word for church is **ekklesia** (some times spelled ecclesia) means a called-out group or assembly.
3. Romans 16:5 shows the difference between the church building and the people who are the church, *“Greet also the church that meets at their house.”* Notice the church was not the building (the house). But the church was the people inside the building (the house).
4. Although the church is not the building, the church always had a gathering place; Exodus 25:8, Exodus 33:7-9, Hebrews 10:24-25, Acts 20:7.
5. The church is a called-out assembly of baptized believers in Jesus Christ, Romans 6:3-4, Matthew 28:19-20
6. Jesus Christ is the Head and Owner of the church; Matthew 16:18, *“...I will build My church,”* Matthew 21:13, Ephesians 1:20-22, Ephesians 5:23
7. The church has a solid and indestructible foundation, Matthew 16:18, *“...on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail.”* Because the Rock the church is built on is Jesus
8. The church is the bride of Christ, Ephesians 5:25-27, Revelation 19:7-8, Revelation 21:1-2, Matthew 25:1-13
9. **Christ is coming back for the church.**