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# IDENTITY CRISIS

*Section #1---What is the Church?*

THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH:

***What Makes a Church a Church?***

*If you don’t know what/who you are or what you believe, you don’t know what to do.*

**WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE CHURCH?**

**1. “Called Out” –** Ekklesia (Matt. 16:18; Rom. 1:6-7; 1 Cor. 1:2)

* An assembly of people (called out citizens who came together to conduct business)—

 edah/qahal –qahal🡪

* Not just any group of people or any group of Christians, but an
* Not just an organized assembly of Christians, but also for a purpose…

* Referenced in the NT in two forms –

SO WHAT? 🡪 A church, as compared to a group of Christians, is an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_of people called out of the world by God to follow Jesus Christ and to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_on the earth. The local church does not depend on a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_but it must be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (leadership) and include provision for multi-family gatherings for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, mutual \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and fully involved \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. **The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God**—God’s Family—Belonging to God

1 Peter 2:9-10

From the OT conception of a people—**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**(Gen. 12:1f) to the NT \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Gal. 6:15) **Church** made possible by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(Matt 1:21; 16:18) and birthed by the Holy Spirit at\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Jn. 16:7; Acts 1:9; 2:1-13)

SO WHAT? 🡪 “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Acts 2:21 – a people; not a collection of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Not just any gathering or human institution—the church is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!

Called to be \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Pet. 1:15—exclude unrepentant sinners Matt. 18:15-18; 1 Cor. 5:13), \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Matt. 22:37-39), a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(Jn. 1:12), a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 2:44—the “one another” life)

3. **The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_of Christ**—Relationships with one another

I Cor. 12:27 Rom. 12:5

SO WHAT? 🡪\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_in Christ required --“one faith” (Eph. 4:4-5); expressed in the\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor. 10:16-17); commonly experienced in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(1 Cor. 12:13), \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ needed (Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:14-20); overcoming natural divisiveness and uniformity, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_in love and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor. 12:25-26)

(Second London Confession 1677)

 (New Hampshire Baptist Convention 1833)

“We believe a New Testament Church is a community of baptized believers voluntarily associated… for mutual edification and care” (Calvary Baptist Church, Oshawa, 1927- Christ’s Return)

4. **The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit**—Church as a Building/Divine Intimacy

 Matt. 16:18

The church is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, a very special \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, a spiritual \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor. 3:9, 11-16; Eph. 2:21-22; 1 Pet. 2:5)

SO WHAT? 🡪 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_called, arranged (1 Cor. 12:18), and gathering together for the purpose of worship; \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_leaders are never called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because all believers are a kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, not to operate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ competently (1 Pet. 2:5,9; Rev. 1:6; 5:10)—ministers to the world and each other!; \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_where God meets with us and we meet him out to the world (Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5:4; 6:11; Rom. 8:9; Eph. 2:21)

5. **The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ** –Secure Authority

Eph. 1:22-23; 5:23; Rev. 19:7

SO WHAT? 🡪 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_the church is Christ’s church and unreservedly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, He is the Head—he is over all rival powers and the church ultimately takes her orders from the Supreme Head (Col. 1:18) and no other agency (lesser magistrates delegated authority include governments and church leadership). The primary way Christ’s authority is exercised and model for all lesser authorities is by\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(sacrificing, feeding, caring Eph. 5:25-33)**🡪** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ first and expansively out of that priority (from Whom the whole body…is caused to grow for building itself up. Eph. 4:16; Col. 2:19… growing into Him, who is the head, that is, even Christ Eph. 4:15) and providing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 4:11) to equip people to .

OUR IDENTITY

*The church is …*