



A VISION FOR CHURCH PLANTING AT CORAL HILL

Thinking biblically and preparing practically to glorify God by starting churches

What do you have to have in order to have a church?

- in other words, you can't have a church without:

What are the things that all faithful churches do?

- in other words, you can't be a faithful church unless you:

The English word “church” has a number of meanings, most of which are religious. But the Greek word *ekklesia*—the Bible word translated “church”—is different. Non-Christians in the first century wouldn’t have thought of it as a religious word. To them it simply meant “a gathering” or “an assembly.” In the New Testament, *ekklesia* is sometimes used in that ordinary way ([Acts 19:32](#) is one example), but more often it’s used for something new and specifically Christian. The writers of the New Testament chose *ekklesia* as the word for this new thing because its everyday meaning—assembly, gathering—was a good fit for their purposes. In every New Testament usage, while *ekklesia* can mean *more* than a gathering, it never means something *unrelated* to a gathering. - Benard Howard

THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH

Article 6 (The Baptist Faith & Message 2000)

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an independent local congregation of baptized believers. These believers are joined by shared agreement. These believers share in the same faith and fellowship of the gospel. This group of baptized believers observes the two ordinances of Christ. They are guided by His laws. They use the gifts, rights, and privileges given to them by His Word. They are trying to present the gospel to all people on the earth. Each congregation works under the Lordship of Christ by self-governing methods.

In this kind of congregation, each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. The church’s scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. Both men and women are given gifts by the Holy Spirit for service in the church. The office of pastor is limited to men that meet the qualifications found in Scripture.

The New Testament describes the church as the Body of Christ. This church includes all of the believers from throughout history. These believers come from every people group. They come from every language group. They come from all people from every country.

Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3.

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justin-taylor/what-is-the-church/>

The church is

- the people of God who
- have been _____ through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ and
- have been incorporated into his body through _____ with the Holy Spirit.

It consists of two interrelated elements:

[1] The _____ *church* is the fellowship of all Christians that extends from the day of Pentecost until the second coming, incorporating both the deceased believers who are presently in heaven and the living believers from all over the world.

This universal church becomes manifested in local churches characterized by at least six attributes (**adapted*):

- 1) oriented to the glory of God
- 2) centered on the incarnate Word (Jesus) and the inspired Word (Scripture)
- 3) created, gathered, gifted and empowered by the Holy Spirit
- 4) gathered as members in new covenant relationship with God and in covenantal relationship with each other
- 5) united by both personal confession of faith in Christ and common confession of the Christian faith
- 6) identified as the body of divinely called and divinely sent ministers to proclaim the gospel and advance the kingdom of God

[2] _____ *churches*

- are led by pastors (also called elders) and served by deacons,
- possess and pursue purity and unity,
- exercise church discipline,
- develop strong connections with other churches, and
- celebrate the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper.

A word about 'the two ordinances'...

***Baptism initiates someone into covenant relationship with a local church**

***The Lord's Supper renews the covenantal relationship between brothers and sisters in a local church**

*Baptism binds one to many and the Lord's supper binds many into one

Local churches are equipped by the Holy Spirit with spiritual gifts for ministry, these communities regularly gather to

- worship the triune God,
- proclaim his Word,
- engage non-Christians with the gospel,
- disciple their members,
- care for people through prayer and giving, and
- stand both for and against the world.