

6. Ecclesiology – A Summary

1. Definition of the Church

- 1) The Greek word “Ekklesia”(ἐκκλησία) means "the assembly of those who are called out."
 - 2) The church is the community of believers in Christ, serving as the instrument through which God's kingdom is manifested on earth.
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2. Origin of the Church

- 1) The church was birthed through the proclamation of the gospel, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the coming of the Holy Spirit(Acts 2).
 - 2) It was established within the eternal plan of the Triune God.
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3. Nature of the Church

- 1) God's People(1 Peter 2:9)
 - 2) The Body of Christ(1 Corinthians 12:27)
 - 3) The Temple of the Holy Spirit(1 Corinthians 3:16)
 - 4) The New Covenant Community– distinct from but in continuity with Old Testament Israel, within the redemptive history of God.
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4. Mission of the Church

- 1) Evangelism and Missions– Matthew 28:18–20
 - 2) Discipleship and Teaching– Ephesians 4:11–13
 - 3) Worship– John 4:24
 - 4) Fellowship and Service– Acts 2:42–47
 - 5) Justice and Mercy– Micah 6:8, James 1:27
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5. Marks of the True Church (Four Marks)

Traditionally, the church is recognized by four essential marks:

- 1) One
 - 2) Holy
 - 3) Catholic (Universal)
 - 4) Apostolic
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6. Forms and Aspects of the Church

- 1) Visible and Invisible Church
 - (1) Visible: The organized, institutional gathering

(2) Invisible: The true community of believers known to God

2) Local Church vs. Universal Church

7. Church Government and Offices

- 1) Offices: Pastor, Elder, Deacon – New Testament model
 - 2) Church Discipline: A biblical mechanism to maintain order (Matthew 18:15–20)
 - 3) Sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper, instituted by Christ for His Church
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8. The Future of the Church (Eschatology)

- 1) The church is the Bride of Christ, awaiting the marriage supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7)

 - 2) In the end, the church will be glorified in the new heaven and new earth (Revelation 21)
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9. Ecclesiology in Pauline Theology

- 1) Paul describes the church as the Body of Christ, emphasizing unity through the Holy Spirit.

- 2) It is a community that transcends race, class, and culture, forming a new humanity – a “new creation” (Ephesians 2:15–16)