

# CHURCH STUDY

## 1. Colossians 1:15-18

- A. The church is the “body” of Christ / Christ is the “head” of the body
- B. The body needs the head...Christ...the one mediator to God!
- C. The church is essential to Christianity.
  - 1. The church is not a man made organization—it is a God made organism
  - 2. Being in a right relationship with God = being in a right relationship with the church. (*explain*)
- D. The Greek word for church is “ekklesia”—literally means ‘the called out’. Refers to the people who have been called out of darkness (sin)—called out of the world to live like Christ.
  - a. Church in the Bible never refers to a building—refers to people.

## 2. Ephesians 2:19-21

- A. The church is the family of God.
  - 1. God is our Father.
  - 2. Makes us brothers and sisters...we all have the same Father!

### B. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

- 1. Baptized into the body of Christ, the church. (**Romans 6:3-4** teaches we are also baptized into Christ.) Baptism is when we become a Christian, a son of God, and at that same point in time we become the church—members of the body and the family of God.

## 3. Ephesians 2:20

- A. The ‘cornerstone’ is Christ. A cornerstone is what is looked back to so the construction of a building is correct—the church always looks back to Jesus.
- B. Foundation is the apostles and prophets.
  - 1. Apostles represent the teachings of Jesus in the New Testament.
  - 2. Prophets represent the teachings of Jesus in the Old Testament.
  - 3. Therefore, the church is based on Jesus from the Word of God only!

## 4. Have you ever wondered why there are so many denominations? (450+ in USA)

- A. The Bible teaches there is one church.
  - 1. **Ephesians 4:4-6 / Romans 12:4-5 / 1 Corth 12:12-13** (one body)
- B. **1 Corinthians 1:10-13** No divisions. Following personalities and, in time, their writings (traditions) have caused the divisions. (**Matthew 15:6-9**)
  - 1. Let’s explore the word “denomination”

de	nomin	ation
Latin	Latin	English
of	name	group
  - 2. Denomination-“a group of a name”. Unscriptural according to **1 Corinthians 1:10-13**
  - 3. Examples:

Lutheran	from Martin Luther
Methodist	from John and Charles Wesley
Presbyterian	from John Calvin and John Knox
Mormon	from Joseph Smith
Catholic	from traditions through the ages

## 5. What is the one church called in the Bible?

- A. **Matthew 16:18** I will build my church
- B. **Romans 16:16** churches of Christ
- C. There are other names in the Bible....the point is the church belongs to no man.

## 6. 1 Corinthians 12:14-27

- A. We need the body and the body needs us (v 21).
- B. Commanded to be on a relationship level in the church (v. 26)

## 7. Hebrews 10:23-25

- A. Do not miss church. Must make it our priority.
- B. The fellowship helps us be unswerving in our commitment (v. 23) / encouragement (v. 24)
- C. Practical application: coming to all the services (Sundays, midweek services, devotionals, house church services, retreats, seminars, etc.)