

# In the beginning, was the church..... And the church was without *formality*.

## Paraphrase:

In the beginning, was the church.... And the church was without formality, And God said, Let the church be the light: and she was the light of the world. And God saw the light of the church, that it was good: and God divided the saints from the sinners.

## The Birth of the church

The Prophecy: Isa 66:1, 8 Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest? Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? **Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once?** for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.

Heb 8:10 - 11 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and **they shall be to me a people**: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, **Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.**

The Birth: Act 2:1-2, 5,16 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, **they were all with one accord in one place**. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. (5) And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, **out of every nation under heaven**. (16) But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

## What is the church?

Def of Church - ekkle<sup>κ</sup>sia

*ek-klay-see'-ah*

a *calling out*, that is, (concretely) a popular *meeting*, especially a religious *congregation* (Jewish *synagogue*, or Christian community of members on earth or saints in heaven or both): - assembly, church.

## A calling out

2Cor 6:14-18 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath

he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and **they shall be my people.** **Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate,** saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

### **How does one become a member?**

Act 2:40-47 And with many other words did he {Peter} testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were **added {unto them}** about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. **And all that believed were together, and had all things common;** And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, **continuing daily with one accord in the temple,** and breaking bread from **house to house,** did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. **And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.**

Saved - to *save*, that is, *deliver* or *protect* (literally or figuratively): - heal, preserve, save (self), do well, be (make) whole.

### Saved from what? - SIN

Act 5:12 - 14 And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and **they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.** And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them. And **believers were the more added to the Lord,** multitudes both of men and women.)

### **Added to the church (body)... now what?**

Eph 4:1-6, 11 – 13, 16 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; **Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.** There is **one body,** and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. (11) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: **Till we all come in the unity of the faith,** and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: (16) From whom

the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which **every joint supplieth**, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, **maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.**

Col 1:4, 9-18 Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And **he is the head of the body, the church**: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

**The church is the body of Christ.** And its being the body of Christ, necessarily includes all His members. Therefore to call an earthly building the church is ridiculous, and to call an organized division the church is subverting the truth. No sect contains all the body of Christ, therefore, no sect is the church of God. **Then as honest men, who expect to be judged by the Word of God, let us never call anything the church but the body of Christ; i. e., all the saved, either universally, or in any given locality.** - D. S. Warner ("The Church of God")

### **Formula for success**

Php 2:2-4 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.