

What Is a Church?

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The Glory of the Church

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This is one of your pastor's top 20-50 Bible studies of all time. The combination of features will overwhelm honest hearers. A local church of Jesus far transcends any other organization. If the features are not known or utilized, they are largely lost. This material is presented to every person joining our church.

What Is a Church?

The Glory of the Church

If the following is 50% true, you owe your church 100% more.
Rather than ask what it can do for you, what can you do for it.
Rejecting all ideas of even good men, what does the Bible say?
You claim to be a Bible believer, so the facts should move you.
The privileges you have in this church far exceed anything else.

What Is a Church?

The Glory of the Church

This is a study of ecclesiology, or the doctrine of the church. It is a terrible shame that most Christians know little of this. You will see the seven Spirits of God and seven angels better. It is not deep or complicated, but a compilation of scriptures. David planned an exceeding magnificent temple; let's do better.

What Is a Church?

The Glory of the Church

It is a shame that most today ask about children's programs.
It is even worse for typical nitpicking in comparison to these.
What can possibly irritate you after a blessing of 42 features!
Print the slide listing all 42 for family discussion and combos.
If a person criticizes your church, respond and reprove by 42!

For Your Maximum Benefit

1. It is not exhaustive; much more has, can be, said.
2. Many points have many more verses for support.
3. Each point is precious, but combined is glorious.
4. Flush any idea of church that does not match.
5. Flush what others may think or do about church.
6. Our religion is Bible facts by faith, not feelings.
7. This is how our God chose to be worshipped.
8. This is what He chose for His adopted children.

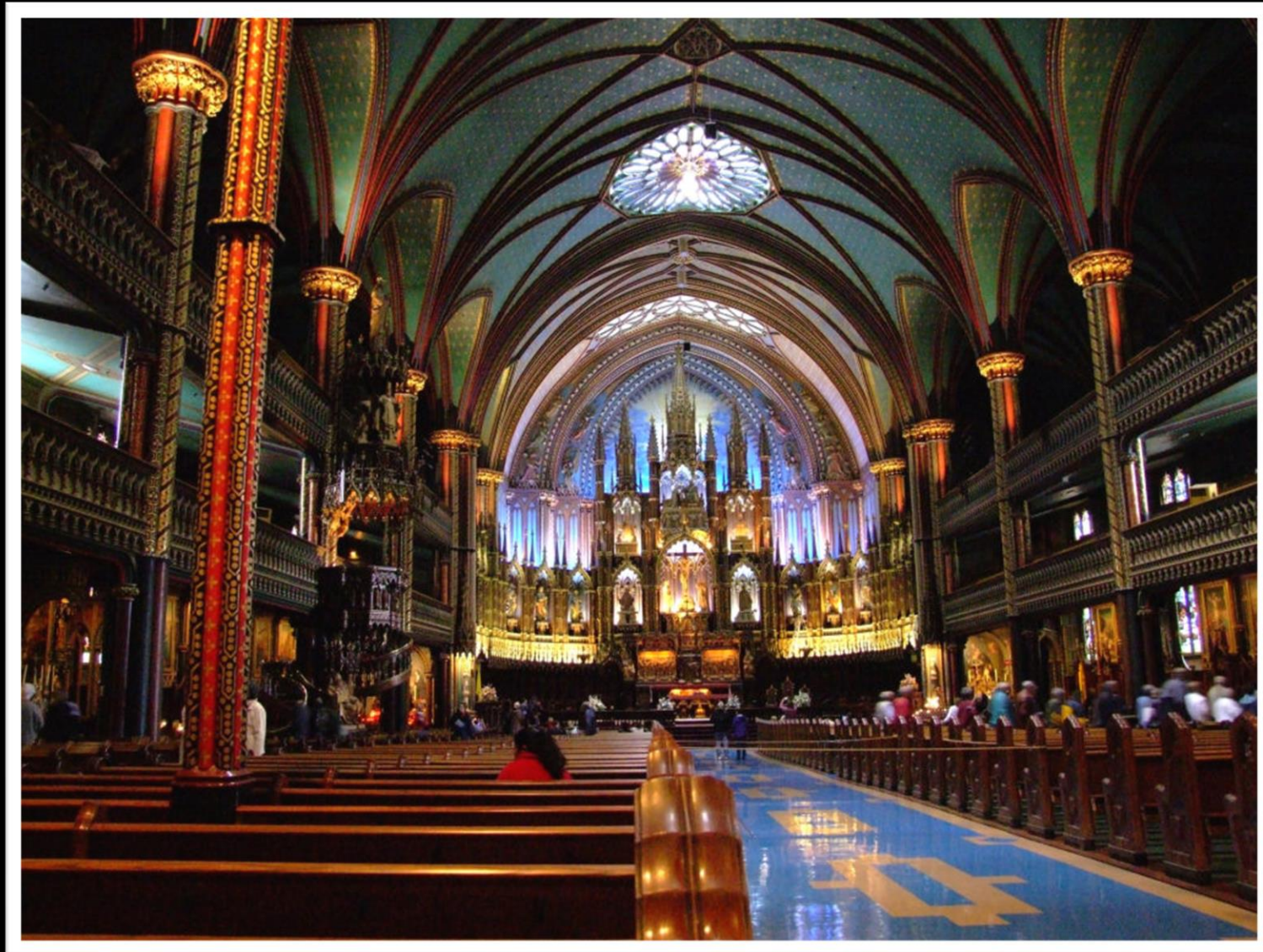
What a Church Is Not!

- A religious building ... “Daddy, did you see that church?”
- A thing to do on Sundays ... “Get ready kids, let’s go to church.”
- A social club for Sunday networking ... like downtown churches.
- A religious club for following a popular man ... Lakewood Church.
- A manmade organization of man’s ideas ... Salvation Army.
- Auditorium for musical or oratorical drama ... Mormon Tabernacle.

Not a Religious Building!



Not a Religious Building!



Not Something to Do on Sundays!



Not a Club for Sunday Networking!



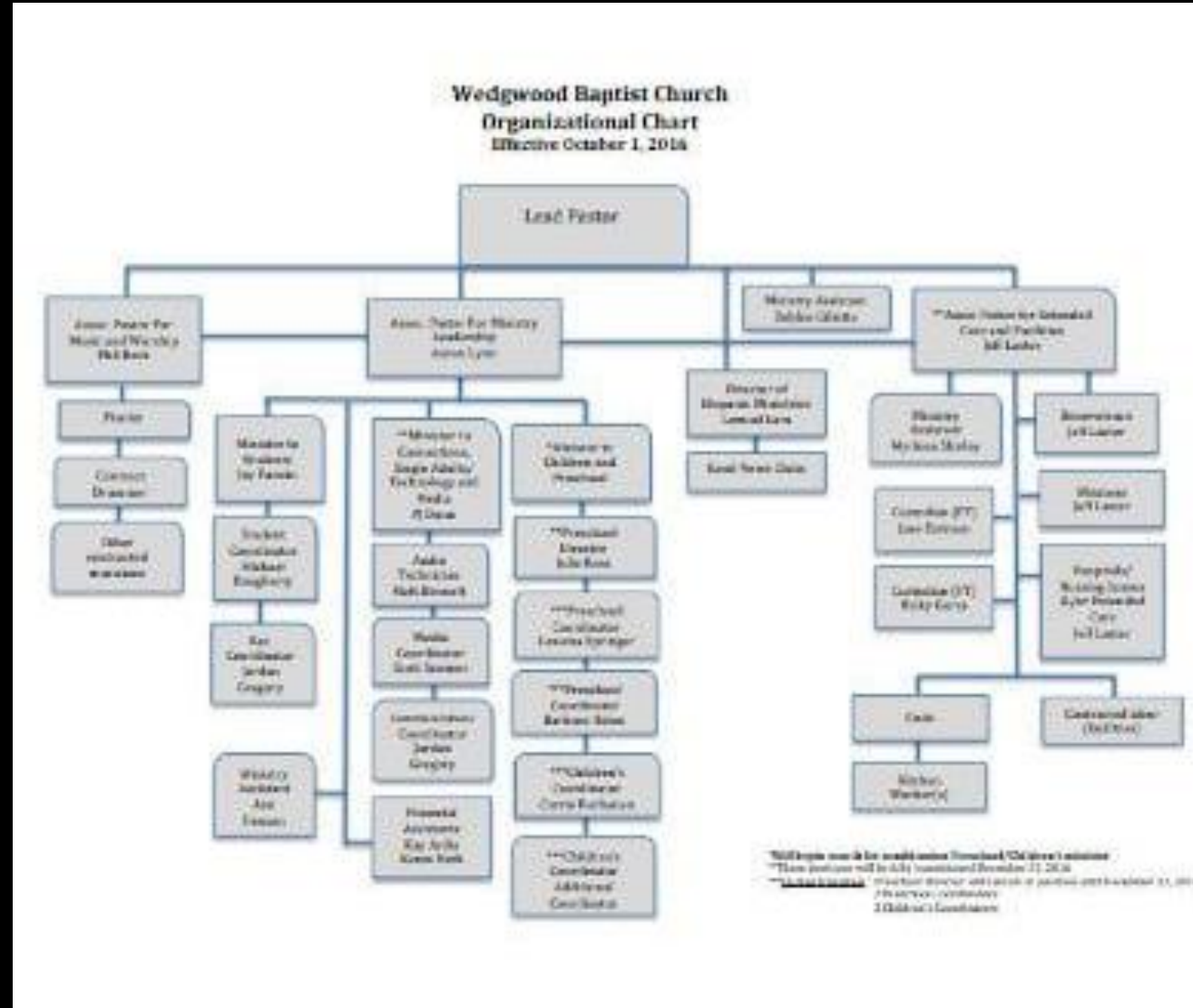
Not a Religious Club of a Popular Man!



Not a Religious Club of a Popular Man!



Not Man's Business Organization!



Not an Auditorium for a Drama!



Not an Auditorium for a Drama!



Not an Auditorium for a Drama!



A Church Is a Tight Group of Believers!

- **Church = Congregation** ... comparing Psalm 22:22 to Hebrews 2:12.
- They are all baptized believers by water immersion to Jesus Christ.
- They all believe the same thing ... or they would go elsewhere.
- They have committed to follow the Bible's N.T. church rules.
- They have committed to forgive, love, and serve one another.
- They meet to worship, learn the Bible, and encourage each other.

A Church Looks Like This



New Providence Predestinarian Baptist Church, DeWitt County, Illinois about 1908

How Important Is a Church?

Which Is More Important?

Solomon's Temple?



Or a Church like This?



New Providence Predestinarian Baptist Church, DeWitt County, Illinois about 1908

There Is No Comparison!

**Jesus the Son of David and
the Son of God never got
near Solomon's temple!**

**Zerubbabel's inferior temple was better
than Solomon's by Jesus visiting it, but
Jesus built ours, is always here,
never leaves, and gave us
true worship!**

Progression of God's Churches to Ours

- Jacob called it *Bethel*, where God appeared to him ... *House of God*.
- Moses (Bezaleel) built a tabernacle or tent for O.T. worship of God.
- Solomon (David) built an exceeding magnificent palace for the LORD.
- Zerubbabel (Herod) rebuilt the temple and Jesus our Lord visited it.
- Jesus promised to build His church with apostles as the foundation.
- We have a N.T. church just like at Jerusalem after Day of Pentecost.

What Is a Church?

God's Temple	Truth Defender	Personal Equalizer
Spirit's House	Salvation Source	Heaven's Magistrate
Christ's Body	Worship Center	Living Organism
Christ's Bride	Reality Check	Freedom Central
Potentate's Property	Chosen Overseers	Support Group
Scripture Repository	Protective Warning	Special Supper
Treasure Chest	God's Seminary	Fellowship Door
Christ's Prophecy	Small Claims Court	Praise Band
God's Israel	Welfare Agency	United Nations
Angelic Wonder	Competent Counselors	Living Epistles
Heavenly Connection	Synergistic Leverage	Secret Society
Inner Circle	Prayer Band	Mega Church
Royal Commission	Replacement Family	Hidden Wisdom
Priest Ordination	Best Friends	World Evangelism

Our Church Is ...

GOD Jehovah's Temple

And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;
In whom all the building fitly framed together
groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:
In whom ye also are builded together for
an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:20-22

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God,
and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?
If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy;
for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

I Corinthians 3:16-17

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.

II Corinthians 6:16-18

God Jehovah's Temple?

Yes, though it sounds incredible!

It is far better than any temple before!

God exalted #2 over #1, but COG far over #2!

God Jehovah's Temple!

1. Jesus the Son of David built this temple.
2. We honor Solomon's, the apostles Herod's.
3. But God fits us together for a far better one.
4. We are built on apostles and Jesus Himself.
5. It is the final and far superior way to worship.

God Jehovah's Temple!

1. You can pray and work for the peace of ours.
2. Are you passionate for it like David for his?
3. Jehovah's temple is much more than thought.
4. Do you honor and build it any way you can?
5. God deserves it; your prosperity requires it.

**This should be enough to get your
attention and affection for life
in any way you can honor it.**

But it is only the first of 42!

Our Church Is ...

Holy Spirit's House

And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;
In whom all the building fitly framed together
groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:
In whom ye also are builded together for
an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:20-22

But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how
thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God,
which is the church of the living God,
the pillar and ground of the truth.

I Timothy 3:15

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God,
and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

I Corinthians 3:16

Holy Spirit's House?

Yes, incredible as it may sound!

The seven Spirits were for seven churches!

Holy Spirit power is here corporately, personally.

Holy Spirit's House!

1. Few in the O.T. ever had any of the Spirit.
2. We glory in those events, but He lives here.
3. Think of any Spirit ministry, it is helped here.
4. Flush Charismatics, it is by faith, not feelings.
5. We can grieve Him together, personally, both.

Holy Spirit's House!

1. Will you do all you can to avoid grieving Him?
2. He can be vexed until He becomes an enemy.
3. He loves unity / peace; do you do all you can?
4. Everything we do must be holy as He is holy.
5. Let us hate any flesh creeping into our union.

Our Church Is ...

Jesus Christ's Body

And hath put all things under his feet,
and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,
Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Ephesians 1:22-23

For as the body is one, and hath many members,
and all the members of that one body,
being many, are one body:
so also is Christ.

For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body,
whether we be Jews or Gentiles,
whether we be bond or free;
and have been all made to drink into one Spirit....

Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

I Corinthians 12:12-27

Jesus Christ's Body

He chose the comparison for us!

Are you as concerned for His as for yours?

Our goal together is to grow up to complete Him.

Jesus Christ's Body

1. He is the Head over the body like your head.
2. We are the fulness of Him, though He fills all.
3. We must grow to the full stature He expects.
4. He by the Spirit directs our actions to profit.
5. He directs and rules us; we submit and obey.

Our Church Is ...

Jesus Christ's Bride

For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy:
for I have espoused you to one husband,
that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

II Corinthians 11:2

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem,
coming down from God out of heaven,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 21:2

For no man ever yet hated his own flesh;
but nourisheth and cherisheth it,
even as the Lord the church:

For we are members of his body,
of his flesh, and of his bones.

For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother,
and shall be joined unto his wife,
and they two shall be one flesh.

This is a great mystery: but I speak
concerning Christ and the church.

Ephesians 5:29-32

Christ's Bride

He paid the dowry of His own blood.

Marriage's one flesh pictures Him and us.

What if it were an earthly king, which He is not!

Our Church Is ...

Potentate's Property

I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things,
and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate
witnessed a good confession;

That thou keep this commandment without spot,
unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:
Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only
Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

I Timothy 6:13-15

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock,
over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers,
to feed the church of God, which he hath
purchased with his own blood.

Acts 20:28

Potentate's Property

Jesus Christ is all that and more!

The title is given Him in a pastoral charge.

He created us, bought us, and expects from us.

Our Church Is ...

Scripture Repository

For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because,
when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us,
ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth,
the word of God, which effectually worketh
also in you that believe.

I Thessalonians 2:13

And when he had opened the fifth seal,
I saw under the altar the souls of them
that were slain for the word of God,
and for the testimony which they held:

Revelation 6:9

Scripture Repository

We have the Bible by local churches.

Apostles named the canon; we preserved it.

Our Bible is God's providence for us against RCC.

Our Church Is ...

Treasure Chest

Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe
which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven
is like unto a man that is an householder,
which bringeth forth out of his
treasure things new and old.

Matthew 13:52

And I will give you pastors according to mine heart,
which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

Jeremiah 3:15

And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you,
but have shewed you, and have taught you
publickly, and from house to house,

Acts 20:20

Treasure Chest

God's truth and wisdom are a treasure.

Faithful, God-called pastors feed knowledge.

Our divine library has everything, if all is taught.

Our Church Is ...

Christ's Prophecy

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter,
and upon this rock I will build my church;
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Matthew 16:18

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold:
them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice;
and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

John 10:16

Christ's Prophecy

We fulfill the prophecy of Jesus.

The rock under us is Jesus the Son of God.

God's great drama around His Son includes us.

Our Church Is ...

God's Israel

And as many as walk according to this rule,
peace be on them, and mercy,
and upon the Israel of God.

Galatians 6:16

And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed,
and heirs according to the promise.

Galatians 3:29

After this I will return, and will build again
the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down;
and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up:
That the residue of men might seek after the Lord,
and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called,
saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.

Acts 15:16-17

Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan,
which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie;
behold, I will make them to come and worship
before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

Revelation 3:9

God's Israel

We affirm replacement theology.

We do reject Jewish dispensationalism.

We are Abraham's seed in David's tabernacle.

Our Church Is ...

Angelic Wonder

Unto whom it was revealed,
that not unto themselves, but unto us
they did minister the things, which are now reported
unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you
with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven;
which things the angels desire to look into.

I Peter 1:12

To the intent that now unto
the principalities and powers in heavenly places
might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,
Ephesians 3:10

Angelic Wonder

Our salvation fascinates the angels.

God designed His drama to impress them.

We are the inner circle; they are our servants.

Our Church Is ...

Heavenly Connection

But ye are come unto mount Sion,
and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,
and to an innumerable company of angels,
To the general assembly and church of the firstborn,
which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all,
and to the spirits of just men made perfect,
And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant,
and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh
better things than that of Abel.

Hebrews 12:22-24

God having provided some better thing for us,
that they without us should not be made perfect.

Hebrews 11:40

For this cause I bow my knees unto
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

Ephesians 3:14-15

Heavenly Connection

We are part of the megachurch above.

Jesus is gathering together all God's family.

Angels, departed heroes, and more are related.

Our Church Is ...

Inner Circle

And round about the throne were four and twenty seats:
and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting,
clothed in white raiment; and they had
on their heads crowns of gold.

And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings
and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning
before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal:
and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne,
were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.

Revelation 4:4-6

And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels
round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and
the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand,
and thousands of thousands;
Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain
to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength,
and honour, and glory, and blessing.

Revelation 5:11-12

But to which of the angels said he at any time,
Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?
Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister
for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

Hebrews 1:13-14

Inner Circle

We are with Jesus in God's throne.

The great company of angels is around us.

We only are the sons of God and Jesus' brethren.

Our Church Is ...

Royal Commission

And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father;
to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Revelation 1:6

And hast made us unto our God kings and priests:
and we shall reign on the earth.

Revelation 5:10

Royal Commission

Our God and Savior is King of kings.

We will reign over angels and men with Him.

We are part of the inner circle and in His pavilion.

Our Church Is ...

Priest Ordination

And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father;
to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Revelation 1:6

And hast made us unto our God kings and priests:
and we shall reign on the earth.

Revelation 5:10

Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection:
on such the second death hath no power,
but they shall be priests of God and of Christ,
and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Revelation 20:6

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood,
an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should
shew forth the praises of him who hath called you
out of darkness into his marvellous light:

I Peter 2:9

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter
into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,
By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us,
through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;
And having an high priest over the house of God;

Hebrews 10:19-21

Priest Ordination

We can boldly go straight to God.

Jesus our great high priest opened it for us.

We combine the two highest honors for all Israel.

Our Church Is ...

Truth Defender

But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how
thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God,
which is the church of the living God,
the pillar and ground of the truth.

I Timothy 3:15

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

Jude 1:3

Truth Defender

Pillar and ground = upholding support.

We are bound to defend and promote truth.

It requires rejecting heresies and their teachers.

Our Church Is ...

Salvation Source

Praising God, and having favour with all the people.
And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Acts 2:47

By which also ye are saved,
if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you,
unless ye have believed in vain.

I Corinthians 15:2

Salvation Source

The practical phase includes church.

The Holy Spirit and elect members help us.

God chose congregational religion for conversion.

Our Church Is ...

Worship Center

Ye also, as lively stones,
are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood,
to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable
to God by Jesus Christ.

I Peter 2:5

By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

Hebrews 13:15

Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved,
let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably
with reverence and godly fear:

Hebrews 12:28

Worship Center

God chose congregational worship.

Church assemblies are His desired worship.

It is the place and format to be most like David.

Our Church Is ...

Reality Check

Let us hold fast the profession of our faith
without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)
And let us consider one another to provoke
unto love and to good works:
Not forsaking the assembling
of ourselves together, as the manner of some is;
but exhorting one another: and so much the more,
as ye see the day approaching.

Hebrews 10:23-25

When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me;
Until I went into the sanctuary of God;
then understood I their end.

Psalm 73:16-17

Reality Check

The world and our flesh are insane.

Preaching wars against our foolish ideas.

Spiritual members show and remind us for truth.

Our Church Is ...

Chosen Overseers

And he gave some, apostles;
and some, prophets;
and some, evangelists;
and some, pastors and teachers;

Ephesians 4:11

And God hath set some in the church,
first apostles,
secondarily prophets,
thirdly teachers,
after that miracles,
then gifts of healings,
helps,
governments,
diversities of tongues.

I Corinthians 12:28

Feed the flock of God which is among you,
taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly;
not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;
Neither as being lords over God's heritage,
but being ensamples to the flock.

And when the chief Shepherd shall appear,
ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

I Peter 5:2-4

Chosen Overseers

Prophesied and prepared by God.

Able with the word of God to perfect you.

Rewarded for good conduct but severely warned.

Our Church Is ...

Protective Warning

Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be
partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

I Timothy 5:22

Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine;
continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt
both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

I Timothy 4:16

According to the grace of God
which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder,
I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon.
But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.
For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid,
which is Jesus Christ.

I Corinthians 3:10-11

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God,
and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?
If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy;
for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

I Corinthians 3:16-17

My brethren, be not many masters,
knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.

James 3:1

Protective Warning

Only careful men get ordained.

They are warned severely of the danger.

God is the ultimate protector and exposes frauds.

Our Church Is ...

God's Seminary

And the things that thou hast heard of me
among many witnesses, the same commit thou
to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

II Timothy 2:2

For when for the time ye ought to be teachers,
ye have need that one teach you again which be the first
principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have
need of milk, and not of strong meat.

For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of
righteousness: for he is a babe.

But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age,
even those who by reason of use have their senses
exercised to discern both good and evil.

Hebrews 5:12-14

God's Seminary

Pastors identify and train pastors.

Public preaching is the content to transfer.

All members can also benefit from this teaching.

Our Church Is ...

Small Claims Court

Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee,
go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone:
if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.
But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee
one or two more, that in the mouth of two or
three witnesses every word may be established.
And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church:
but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto
thee as an heathen man and a publican.

Matthew 18:15-17

Dare any of you, having a matter against another,
go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?

Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world?

and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye
unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

Know ye not that we shall judge angels?

how much more things that pertain to this life?

If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life,
set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church.

I Corinthians 6:1-4

Small Claims Court

Small issues arise between members.

Jesus has not ruled, so the church does so.

This is God's inspired and simple plan for peace.

Our Church Is ...

Welfare Agency

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.

Acts 2:44-45

Neither was there any among them that lacked:
for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them,
and brought the prices of the things that were sold,
And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and
distribution was made unto every man
according as he had need.

Acts 4:34-35

And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations.

Acts 6:1

Let not a widow be taken into the number
under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man,
Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children,
if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet,
if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently
followed every good work.

I Timothy 5:9-10

Welfare Agency

We do not need the United Way.

The priority is our church members first.

We are not Communists but helpful brethren.

Our Church Is ...

Competent Counselors

Without counsel purposes are disappointed:
but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.

Proverbs 15:22

If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life,
set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church.
I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man
among you? no, not one that shall be able
to judge between his brethren?

I Corinthians 6:4-5

And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren,
that ye also are full of goodness,
filled with all knowledge,
able also to admonish one another.

Romans 15:14

Competent Counselors

Successful living requires advisors.

Counsel must be critical and wise to help.

A church will have sharp, godly, successful men.

Our Church Is ...

Synergistic Leverage

Again, if two lie together, then they have heat:
but how can one be warm alone?

Ecclesiastes 4:11

The locusts have no king,
yet go they forth all of them by bands;

Proverbs 30:27

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.

Ephesians 4:16

Synergistic Leverage

Synergism beats the sum of parts.

Different gifts combined increase benefit.

Every member doing his part leverages grace.

Our Church Is ...

Prayer Band

And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine
and fellowship, and in breaking of bread,
and in prayers.

Acts 2:42

Peter therefore was kept in prison:
but prayer was made without ceasing
of the church unto God for him.

Acts 12:5

Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree
on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask,
it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

For where two or three are gathered together
in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Matthew 18:19-20

Confess your faults one to another,
and pray one for another,
that ye may be healed.

James 5:16a

Prayer Band

Plural prayers have some leverage.

Success is more likely with others' prayers.

A church knows you best for content & fervency.

Our Church Is ...

Replacement Family

Then Peter began to say unto him,
Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee.
And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you,
There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or
father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands,
for my sake, and the gospel's,
But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time,
houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers,
and children, and lands, with persecutions;
and in the world to come eternal life.

Mark 10:28-30

The elder unto the elect lady and her children,
whom I love in the truth; and not I only,
but also all they that have known the truth;

II John 1:1

The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth.

III John 1:1

Replacement Family

Jesus promised a sword in families.

But a church provides many new relations.

A lone disciple also loses, but without new ones.

Our Church Is ...

Best Friends

Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

Amos 3:3

And when he had thus spoken,
he kneeled down, and prayed with them all.
And they all wept sore, and fell on Paul's neck, and kissed him,
Sorrowing most of all for the words which he spake,
that they should see his face no more.
And they accompanied him unto the ship.

Acts 20:36-38

And from thence, when the brethren heard of us, they came to meet us as far as Appii forum, and The three taverns: whom when Paul saw, he thanked God, and took courage.

Acts 28:15

Best Friends

Blood is thicker than blood.

There is a friend closer than a brother.

Friends must agree, and truth agreement is best.

Our Church Is ...

Personal Equalizer

There is neither Jew nor Greek,
there is neither bond nor free,
there is neither male nor female:
for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28

And the eye cannot say unto the hand,
I have no need of thee: nor again
the head to the feet, I have no need of you.
Nay, much more those members of the body,
which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:

And those members of the body, which we think to be less
honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour;
and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.

I Corinthians 12:21-23

My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.

For if there come unto your assembly
a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel,
and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;
And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing,
and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and
say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:
Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are
become judges of evil thoughts?

James 2:1-4

Personal Equalizer

Greater honor is shown uncomely.

What often divides or separates is ignored.

Think ability, education, finances, looks, success.

Our Church Is ...

Heaven's Magistrate

But now I have written unto you not to keep company,
if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous,
or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner;
with such an one no not to eat.

For what have I to do to judge them also that are without?
do not ye judge them that are within?

But them that are without God judgeth.

Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

I Corinthians 5:11-13

And if any man obey not our word by this epistle,
note that man, and have no company with him,
that he may be ashamed.

Yet count him not as an enemy,
but admonish him as a brother.

II Thessalonians 3:14-15

Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth
shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall
loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Matthew 18:18

Heaven's Magistrate

God is holy and expects us holy.

We are to keep His Son's supper pure.

He does the rest after we put sinners from us.

Our Church Is ...

Living Organism

To whom coming, as unto a living stone,
disallowed indeed of men, but
chosen of God, and precious,
Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house,
an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices,
acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

I Peter 2:4-5

For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body,
whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free;
and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

I Corinthians 12:13

Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee,
because thou hast left thy first love.
Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen,
and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come
unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick
out of his place, except thou repent.

Revelation 2:4-5

Living Organism

An organization is only structure.

A church is alive with Spirit and members.

A body is animated by a spirit like a church's life.

Our Church Is ...

Freedom Central

Him that is weak in the faith receive ye,
but not to doubtful disputations.

For one believeth that he may eat all things:
another, who is weak, eateth herbs.

Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not;
and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth:
for God hath received him.

Romans 14:1-3

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink;
but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

For he that in these things serveth Christ is
acceptable to God, and approved of men.

Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace,
and things wherewith one may edify another.

Romans 14:17-19

It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine,
nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth,
or is offended, or is made weak.

Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God.

Happy is he that condemneth not himself
in that thing which he alloweth.

Romans 14:21-22

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink,
or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

Give none offence,
neither to the Jews,
nor to the Gentiles,

nor to the church of God:

Even as I please all men in all things,
not seeking mine own profit, but the
profit of many, that they may be saved.

I Corinthians 10:31-33

Freedom Central

Christian liberties vary quite greatly.

A true church defends every honest liberty.

It will not allow debating, despising, or judging.

Our Church Is ...

Support Group

Rejoice with them that do rejoice,
and weep with them that weep.

Romans 12:15

And whether one member suffer,
all the members suffer with it;
or one member be honoured,
all the members rejoice with it.

I Corinthians 12:26

Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them;
and them which suffer adversity,
as being yourselves also in the body.

Hebrews 13:3

Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault,
ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of
meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.
Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:1-2

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren,
concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not,
even as others which have no hope....

Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

I Thessalonians 4:13-17

Support Group

Very few if any care about your life!

But your church is joined in life with you.

The members care greatly for your joy or pain.

Our Church Is ...

Special Supper

For I have received of the Lord
that which also I delivered unto you,
That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed
took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said,
Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you:
this do in remembrance of me.

After the same manner also he took the cup,
when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament
in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it,
in remembrance of me.

I Corinthians 11:23-25

Purge out therefore the old leaven,
that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened.
For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:
Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven,
neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness;
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

I Corinthians 5:7-8

The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not
the communion of the blood of Christ?

The bread which we break, is it not
the communion of the body of Christ?

For we being many are one bread, and one body:
for we are all partakers of that one bread.

I Corinthians 10:16-17

Special Supper

The King of heaven set a table for us!

It fulfills and exceeds the great OT Passover.

By heaven's decree we recall the greatest event.

Our Church Is ...

Fellowship Door

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock:
if any man hear my voice, and open the door,
I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Revelation 3:20

And they continued stedfastly
in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship,
and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Acts 2:42

That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you,
that ye also may have fellowship with us:
and truly our fellowship is with the Father,
and with his Son Jesus Christ.

I John 1:3

Fellowship Privilege

Our Lord's invitation was to a church.

God saved us to know Him for fellowship.

The N.T. presses this privilege by many angles.

Our Church Is ...

Praise Band

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess;
but be filled with the Spirit;
Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;
Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Ephesians 5:18-20

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom;
teaching and admonishing one another in
psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Colossians 3:16

How is it then, brethren? when ye come together,
every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine,
hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation.
Let all things be done unto edifying.

I Corinthians 14:26

Praise Band

If you love music and/or praise, do it!

Earth's bands and choirs reach the ceiling.

We have the greatest theme, purpose, audience.

Our Church Is ...

United Nations

Where there is neither Greek nor Jew,
circumcision nor uncircumcision,
Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free:
but Christ is all, and in all.

Colossians 3:11

And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews,
devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

Acts 2:5

For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to
make a certain contribution for the poor saints
which are at Jerusalem.

Romans 15:26

United Nations

The church of Jesus is its own nation!

National dislike exists, but not in His church.

There are no divisions allowed of this kind at all.

Our Church Is ...

Living Epistles

Ye are our epistle written in our hearts,
known and read of all men:

Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be
the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink,
but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone,
but in fleshy tables of the heart.

II Corinthians 3:2-3

Do all things without murmurings and disputings:
That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God,
without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation,
among whom ye shine as lights in the world;
Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice
in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain,
neither laboured in vain.

Philippians 2:14-16

Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles:
that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers,
they may by your good works, which they shall behold,
glorify God in the day of visitation.

I Peter 2:12

Living Epistles

Changed lives declare truth widely.

We are lights in a dark nation and world.

Our actions are constantly assessed by others.

Our Church Is ...

Secret Society

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us,
that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world
knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

I John 3:1

But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery,
even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained
before the world unto our glory:
Which none of the princes of this world knew:
for had they known it, they would not
have crucified the Lord of glory.

I Corinthians 2:7-8

Secret Society

World has no clue of our importance.

We are brothers tighter than other unions.

We have initiation rites, insider information, etc.

Our Church Is ...

Mega Church

But ye are come unto mount Sion,
and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,
and to an innumerable company of angels,
To the general assembly and church of the firstborn,
which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all,
and to the spirits of just men made perfect,
And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant,
and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh
better things than that of Abel.

Hebrews 12:22-24

After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude,
which no man could number, of all nations,
and kindreds, and people, and tongues,
stood before the throne, and before the Lamb,
clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;
And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God
which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

Revelation 7:9-10

Mega Church

We are one outpost of a kingdom.

Our kingdom covers earth and fills heaven.

Membership is book of life ... and many angels!

Our Church Is ...

Hidden Wisdom

But as it is written,
Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard,
neither have entered into the heart of man,
the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit:
for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea,
the deep things of God.

I Corinthians 2:9-10

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:

God was manifest in the flesh,
justified in the Spirit,
seen of angels,
preached unto the Gentiles,
believed on in the world,
received up into glory.

I Timothy 3:16

Behold, I shew you a mystery;

We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,
In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump:
for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised
incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

I Corinthians 15:51-52

After this I looked, and, behold,
door was opened in heaven: and the
first voice which I heard was as it were of a
trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither,
and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

Revelation 4:1

Hidden Wisdom

This is the best insider information.

We know everything the world does not.

We can explain origins, life, death, history, future!

Our Church Is ...

World Evangelism

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all,
that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

Romans 1:8

So that ye were ensamples to all
that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.
For from you sounded out the word of the Lord
not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place
your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we
need not to speak any thing.

I Thessalonians 1:7-8

And being brought on their way by the church,
they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring
the conversion of the Gentiles: and they caused
great joy unto all the brethren.

Acts 15:3

And when I was present with you, and wanted,
I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking
to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied:
and in all things I have kept myself from being
burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself.
As the truth of Christ is in me, no man shall stop me
of this boasting in the regions of Achaia.

II Corinthians 11:9-10

And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue:
whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard,
they took him unto them, and expounded
unto him the way of God more perfectly.

Acts 18:26

World Evangelism

We are past the Great Commission.

Our goal is conversion, not regeneration.

We reach all nations and help pastors many ways.

How Important Is a Church?

A Church Is this Important!

God's Temple	Truth Defender	Personal Equalizer
Spirit's House	Salvation Source	Heaven's Magistrate
Christ's Body	Worship Center	Living Organism
Christ's Bride	Reality Check	Freedom Central
Potentate's Property	Chosen Overseers	Support Group
Scripture Repository	Protective Warning	Special Supper
Treasure Chest	God's Seminary	Fellowship Option
Christ's Prophecy	Small Claims Court	Praise Band
God's Israel	Welfare Agency	United Nations
Angelic Wonder	Competent Counselors	Living Epistles
Heavenly Connection	Synergistic Leverage	Secret Society
Inner Circle	Prayer Band	Mega Church
Royal Commission	Replacement Family	Hidden Wisdom
Priest Ordination	Best Friends	World Evangelism

What Is a Church?

The Glory of the Church

It is a shame that most today ask about children's programs.
It is even worse for typical nitpicking in comparison to these.
What can possibly irritate you after a blessing of 42 features!
Print the slide listing all 42 for family discussion and combos.
If a person criticizes your church, respond and reprove by 42!

How Important Is YOUR Church?

What Should We Think and Do?

1. The 42 are not what can be, but what should be!
2. God designed the church to be and do these 42.
3. God ordained those of the 42 using our actions.
4. What an honor it is to have and know these 42.
5. What a privilege to promote / protect a church.
6. We should consider it a sacred honor to do so.
7. We have the temple, body, and bride of Christ.
8. Let us remember and fear the warnings herein.

What Will You Do for Your Church?

- Will you pray for it ... with all prayer, supplication, and watching?
- Will you prepare for its assemblies ... to honor God like a governor?
- Will you participate in assemblies ... to help congregational worship?
- Will you protect its doctrine, practice, peace, unity, and communion?
- Will you provide for it every way you are able with effort, time, money?
- Will you promote it passionately as others do things far inferior to it?

**To work the way it should by God's Spirit,
a church must love Christ preeminently.
There can be no shortcut to this crucial
goal and purpose of each local church.**

For Further Study of Local N.T. Churches

What Is a Great Church? ... PPT Sermon (2014) ... <https://letgodbetruer.com/sermons/index/year-2014/what-is-a-great-church/>

Higher Ground ... Sermon Series (2015) ... <https://letgodbetruer.com/sermons/index/year-2015/higher-ground/>

Two Mountains ... Sermons & Outline (2024) ... <https://letgodbetruer.com/sermons/two-mountains-1/>

Real Insider Information ... Sermons & Outline (2022) ... <https://letgodbetruer.com/sermons/index/year-2022/real-insider-information/>

Pillar and Ground of Truth ... Sermon & Outline (2006) ... <https://letgodbetruer.com/sermons/index/year-2006/pillar-and-ground-of-the-truth/>

Day of Pentecost ... Sermons & Outline (2017) ... <https://letgodbetruer.com/sermons/index/year-2017/the-day-of-pentecost/>

Lesson of the Locust ... Sermon Outline (2006) ... <https://letgodbetruer.com/sermons/index/year-2006/lesson-of-the-locust/>

A Preaching Service ... Sermon Outline (2012) ... <https://letgodbetruer.com/sermons/index/year-2012/a-preaching-service/>

One Another ... Sermon Outline (2011) ... <https://letgodbetruer.com/sermons/index/year-2011/one-another/>

Every Joint ... Sermon & Outline (2005) ... <https://letgodbetruer.com/sermons/index/year-2005/every-joint/>

Perilous Times ... Sermons & Outline (2000) ... <https://letgodbetruer.com/sermons/index/year-2000/perilous-times/>

Ancient Landmarks ... Sermons & Outline (2006) ... <https://letgodbetruer.com/sermons/index/year-2006/ancient-landmarks/>

More CHURCH Sermons ... <https://letgodbetruer.com/sermons/index/church/>

More CHURCH Documents ... <https://letgodbetruer.com/bible-topics/index/church/>