

*Jesus said, "I am the way,  
the truth, and the life."*

—John 14:6

# What is TRUTH?

*Culture demands ... and deserves an answer*



The Wednesday BibleLife Series  
Terry R Baughman, Lead Pastor

What is Truth?

Culture demands an answer ... and Culture deserves an answer.

— I plan to teach several lessons in this series.

- First of all we will establish a foundation for the Word of God as being truth.
- We will establish core doctrines of our faith in Jesus Christ and who He is
- Then we will approach some topics of apologetics — defending truth in an unbelieving culture.

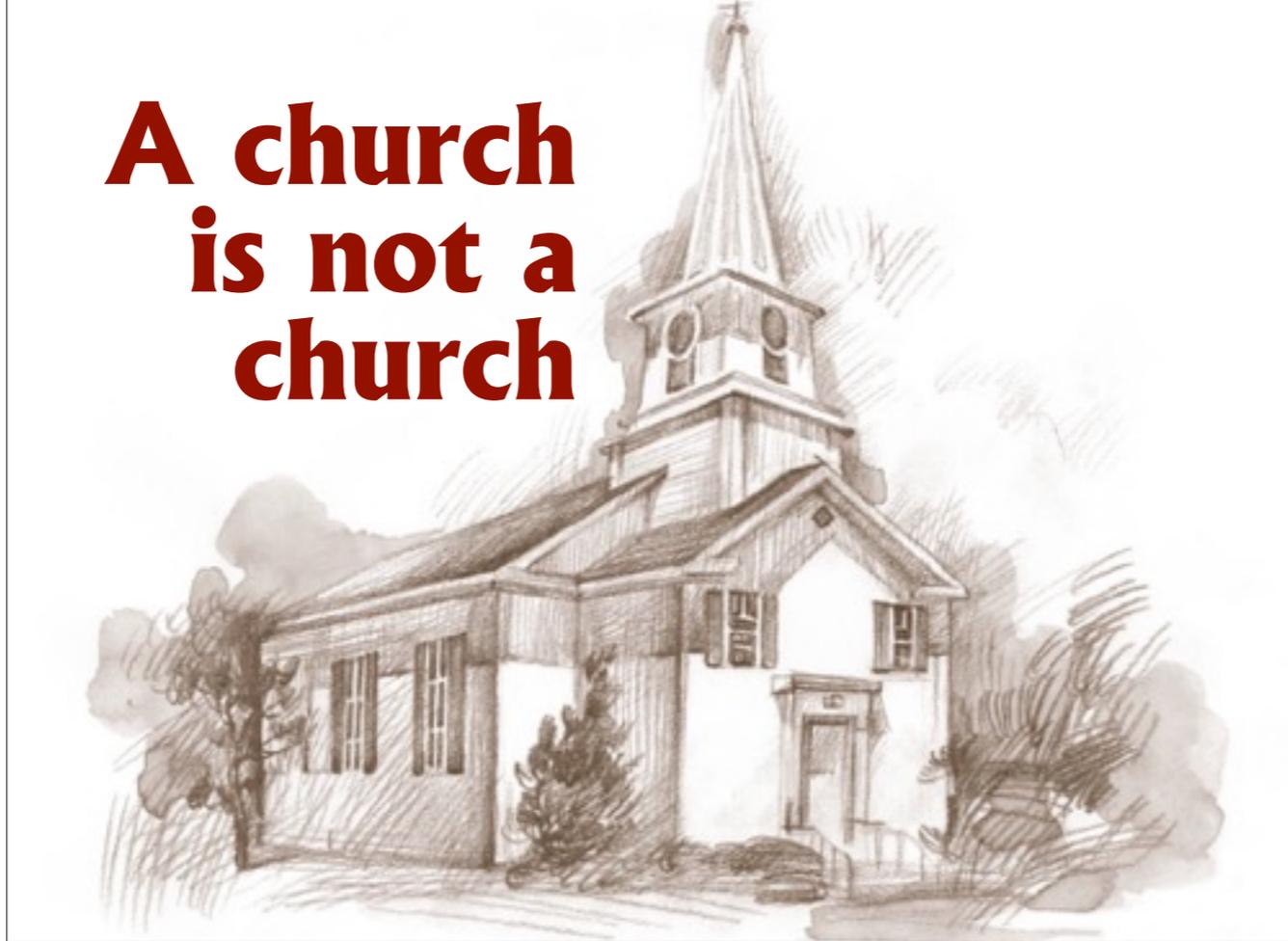
# The Truth about the Church

## WHAT IS CHURCH?



January 6, 2016  
The Wednesday BibleLife Series  
Terry R Baughman, Lead Pastor

# A church is not a church



Apostolic pattern (Holy Ghost, tongues, baptism in Jesus name, dynamic demonstration)

Also in this pattern... but not a doctrine...

- met publicly and from house to house

- no building

- no property (not even the believers)

They sold all.

Key to our metro areas...

Limitation of location

- easy to move where people are

- great growth causes change of focus to building projects

- division and multiplication is easier

- small groups are encouraged.

A hand is shown in the upper right corner, holding a black pen and drawing a sketch of a church building. The sketch is composed of many overlapping black lines, creating a sense of depth and structure. A crane is visible in the background of the sketch. The text is overlaid on the sketch.

**Building  
the Church  
is not the  
building**

**DON'T  
GO  
TO CHURCH.  
BE THE CHURCH.**



What is the Church?

A building

A denominational structure

A local congregation

All those who believe in Christ

—The Church is the Body of Christ ... where ever they are and when ever they meet!

Our idea of church has to be changed

-we *intellectually* nod to the truth that the church is the “people”, the “body of Christ”

-*practically*, we still see the church as land, building, acquisitions and investments.

# The Church

- Two Greek words:
  - κυριακός (*kuriakos*)  
“belonging to the Lord”
    - Lord’s Supper – 1 Cor. 11:20
    - Lord’s Day – Rev. 1:10
- Eventually, the place where believers met together came to be called “the Lord’s house”

The English word “church” originated with the Greek word κυριακός, (*kuriakos*), which means “belonging to the Lord”. This word is used twice in the New Testament:

– κυριακός (*kuriakos*) “belonging to the Lord”

Lord’s Supper – 1 Cor 11:20

Lord’s Day – Rev. 1:10

Eventually, the place where believers met together came to be called “the Lord’s house”

# The Church

- Two Greek words:
    - ἐκκλησία (*ekklesia*) “to call out” - assemble
      - Both secular and sacred contexts in NT
      - 109 of the 114 uses define:
        - The local church (assembly)
        - The universal church (assembly)
- ἐκκλησία is never used of a building, a denomination, or an official state church in the New Testament.*

– ἐκκλησία (*ekklesia*) “to call out” - assemble (after the reformation “community” or “congregation”

Both secular and sacred contexts in NT

109 of the 114 uses define:

– The local church (assembly)

– The universal church (assembly)

*ἐκκλησία* is never used of a building, a denomination, or an official state church in the New Testament.

# The Beginning of the Church

- How did the church originate?
- What did “church” look like in the first century?



It originated on the “Day of Pentecost”

# The Beginning of the Church

- How did the church originate?
  - It was still future while Christ was on earth

## **Matthew 16:18**

- “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”

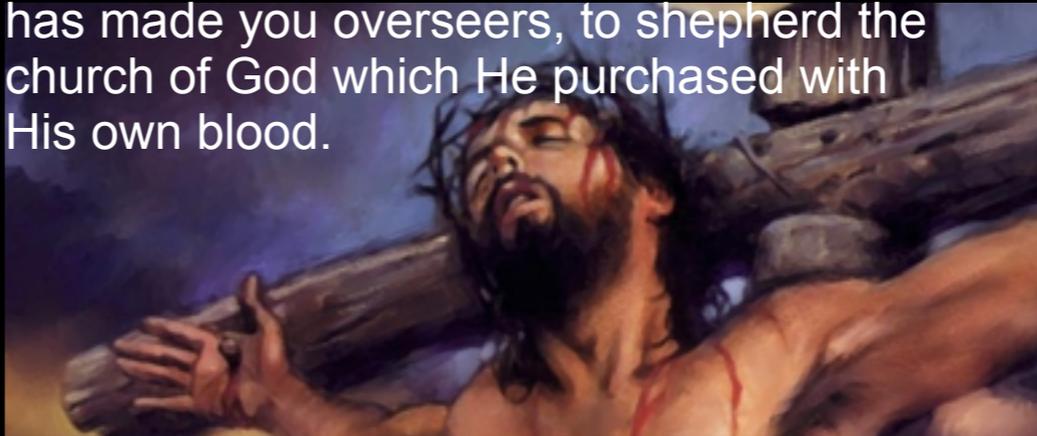


# The Beginning of the Church

- How did the church originate?
  - Depended on the finished work of Christ

## **Acts 20:28**

- "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.



# Ecclesiology

- How did the church originate?
  - Could not exist until the coming of the Holy Spirit

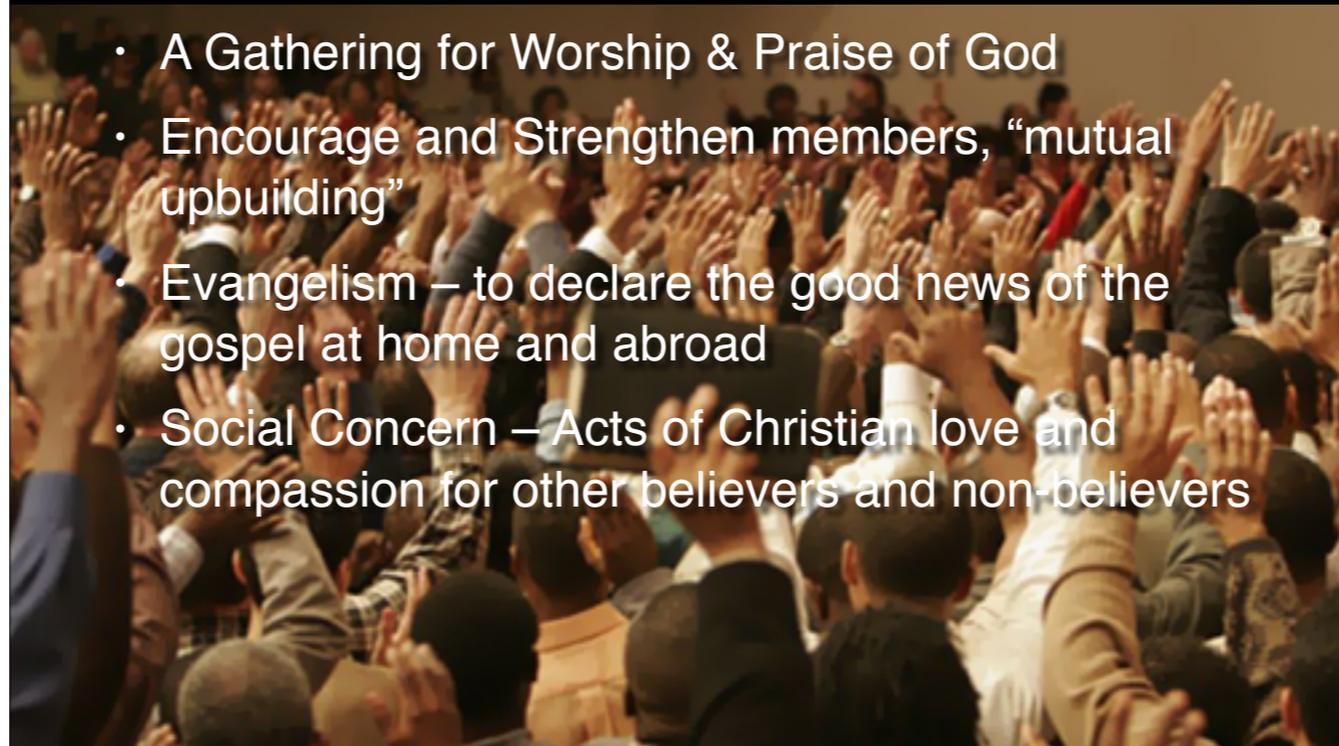
- **I Corinthians 12:13**

- For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body -- whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free -- and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

Be filled  
with the  
**Spirit**



# Four Functions of the Church



- A Gathering for Worship & Praise of God
- Encourage and Strengthen members, “mutual upbuilding”
- Evangelism – to declare the good news of the gospel at home and abroad
- Social Concern – Acts of Christian love and compassion for other believers and non-believers

Exaltation – Worship & Praise of God

Edification – Encourage and Strengthen members, “mutual upbuilding”

Evangelism – to declare the good news of the gospel at home and abroad

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