

The Nature of the church

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October 10, 2021
Gray

Introduction

1. Romans 16:16
2. Many descriptive phrases are applied to the church in the Scriptures
3. The phrases give emphasis to various features of the church
4. To help us understand the church we need to understand her nature
5. Let us apply this study to our minds so that we will not forget the very nature of the church.

II Discussion

1. The church, the called out
 - a. Church is from the Greek word Kuriakos meaning of or belonging to the Lord
 - b. Church is sometimes translated from the Greek word Ekklesia To call out
 - c. The word Church in the New Testament is used in two ways
 - i. All the called out all over the world Ephesians 5:23-25
 - ii. Those of a certain locale 1 Corinthians 1:2; 1 Thessalonians 1:1
 - d. We have been called out of darkness 1 Peter 2:9
 - e. The purpose of our calling 1 Peter 2:21
 - f. Always remember that we are called by the Gospel 2 Thessalonians 2:14
2. The household of God 1 Timothy 3:15; Ephesians 2:19; 3:15; Luke 1:33; Isaiah 2:2
 - a. God is the Father Ephesians 3:14
 - b. Christ the Son Matthew 17:5; Hebrews 3:6
 - c. Children and Heirs Romans 8; 14-17
 - d. This relationship demands
 - i. Separation from the world 2 Corinthians 6:17-18
 - ii. Obedient children 1 Peter 1:14
 - iii. Wear the family name Acts 11:26;
 - iv. Love our brethren 1 John 4:20-21
3. The kingdom of God Matthew 16:18-19
 - a. This is a spiritual kingdom John 18:36
 - b. Four things necessary to constitute a kingdom
 - i. A king Luke 1:33; 1 Timothy 6:15
 - ii. A territory the hearts of men Luke 17:21
 - iii. Subject are those who have obeyed Romans 6:17
 - iv. Law Galatians 6:2
4. The body of Christ Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4
 - a. Many members one body Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-25
 - b. All the members are to be working together Ephesians 4:16
5. The Temple of God
 - a. This is a place of worship where God dwells 2 Chronicles 7:16; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 1 Peter 2:5
 - b. It is a place where God will record His name Exodus 20:24; Ephesians 3:14-15
 - c. This must be according to God's plan Hebrews 8:1-5; Ephesians 2:21-22
 - d. Christ is the corner stone and apostles the foundation Ephesians 2:20; 1 Peter 2:4-8

III Conclusion

1. Are you a part of the called out?
2. Are you a part of the household of God
3. Are you in the kingdom letting Christ reign over your heart

4. Are you a part of the body working together
5. Are you part of the temple of God
6. If not you can be and ought to be today!
7. Come now

Source: The New Testament church by Roy Cogdill; The church the beautiful bride of Christ
Getwell lecture 1980