

5/10/18

What About the Church?

There have always been weird unbiblical concepts and understanding of what the church is in its true nature.

The only legitimate understanding of the church must come from the New Testament Scriptures the portrays the church as people whose hearts had been transform by the gospel through the new birth and became the light and salt of the earth in proclaiming the gospel to sinner that they might also repent and be save.

1. Too many today are attempting to redefine the nature of the church in order to be culturally relevant and politically correct, at the expense of the Biblical nature of the church.
2. There are many metaphors used in the Scriptures to describe the Church, each giving a perspective of her nature in relation to Jesus Christ, such as the city, temple or the family of God, to mention just a few.

We want to answer the question, What is the church by its nature by asking three basic questions.

- I. What is meant by the Church?
- II. What is the developed concept of the church?
- III. What is the Church to do?

I. What is meant by the church?

- A. The misunderstanding of what the church is.

1. Some define the church is a place where old and religious people meet to find comfort.
 - a. This is correct in that not too many young people go to church.
 - b. They also see religious people doing penance for their past sins.
2. Others define the church as a place where people go to escape reality.
 - a. Believing Christians are gullible and foolish to believe in God.
 - b. Believing Christians are anti-intellectual and too idealistic.
 - c. Believing Christians are holding back society being intolerant and judgmental, especially towards sexual diversity and alternate life-styles.
3. Still other define the church by their denomination, attempting to convert everyone to their particular beliefs.
 - a. Interested in making disciples after themselves, not after Christ.
 - b. Resulting in our modern day Pharisees and hucksters!
4. Then others define the church is an organization to raise money.
 - a. By all the begging in churches.
 - b. By to the gimmicks and programs used to manipulate and flees God's people.
 - c. Take note each of these define the church by what it does instead of what it is!

- B.** The word used for the “church” in the New Testament is a very appropriate one.
1. The word church “ekklesia” is made up of two words.
 - a. The word “ek” meaning out.
 - b. The word “kaleo”, meaning to call.
 2. The word was used by the Greeks to describe a civil assembly of people, as in Athens: characterized by the following.
 - a. Citizens with power to declare war, peace, elect generals and raise funds.
 - b. They began with prayer and sacrifice.
 - c. They later used the word in a wider sense, for a convened assembly of citizens as in Acts, when they questioned their assembly. Acts 19:32, 39, 41
 3. The word “ekklesia” describes and identifies the people who were, have been and will be called out from the world, by the Spirit of God, to hear the voice of God.
 - a. Jesus came to call sinners to repentance not just simply to call them. Mk. 2:17
* Jesus calls a person to respond, not merely believe, for devils believe but at least they tremble! Ja. 2:19
 - b. Peter says we are to be even more diligent to make our call and election sure. 2Pet. 1:10c
 - c. Paul declared, “Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called”...Rom. 8:30a-b

- 1) No contradiction, the called are the people of God to a place of blessing or service, to be conformed into the image of Jesus.
- 2) Those called are the community of God’s redeemed.
 - a) The very word “redeemed” implies we belonged to God, for through the fall we became lost!
 - b) It is much like when you pond something, you can redeem it from the pond shop within a period of time because it once belonged to you.
 - c) If you fail to redeem it within the set time, another can buy it but they do not redeem it, it was never theirs.
4. The word church “ekklesia” appears 115 times in the New Testament.
 - a. In Paul’s letters it is found 62 times.
 - b. In Acts it is found 24 times.
 - c. In Hebrews it is found 2 times.
 - d. In James it is found 1 time.
 - e. In 3 John it is found 3 times.
 - f. In Revelation it is found 20 times.
 - g. In the gospels it is found only 3 times.
 - 1) “I will build my church.” Matt. 16:18
 - 2) For church discipline, twice, never calls the church a campus. Matt. 18:17

5. The concept and idea throughout the New Testament is clear and unmistakable. the church belongs to Jesus.
 - a. Our English word that relates the church as His, is the Greek word “kuriakos”, and means belonging to the Lord.
 - b. Appearing twice in the New Testament.
 - 1) For the “Lord’s Supper”. 1Cor. 11:20
 - 2) For Sunday “The Lord’s Day”. Rev. 1:10
 - c. Paul told the Ephesian elders Christ is the One Who purchased the Church with His own blood. Acts 20:28
 - 1) We do not own the church.
 - 2) We can not increase the church.

C. The church is said to be the bride of Christ.

1. The marriage metaphor had been used throughout. the Old Testament, “For Your Maker is your husband”. Is. 54:5
 - a. “For as a young man marries a virgin, So shall your sons marry you; And as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, So shall your God rejoice over you.” Is. 62:5
 - b. Hosea was to redeem his wife as she sold herself to harlotry and God used it for his redemptive relationship to Israel in the future in loving kindness. Hos. 2:7, 19
 - 1) Israel wife of God is divorced, the church a chaste virgin to be married.

- 2) The two are distinct and different, obvious and consistent in the Bible.
2. The marriage metaphor of the bride is also used in the New Testament, though there are other metaphors, but a bride is the most intimate and binding for life!
 - a. You can have boyfriends or girlfriends, kiss, even have sex, but nothing will effect your life as marriage!
 - b. The imagery of marriage is to bring to our minds thoughts of a husband and wife, attraction, love, commitment, passion, understanding, communication, sacrifice, forgiveness and dying to self.
3. Jesus used the figure of a marriage in His parable of the wedding feast, as a King arranged a marriage for his son and He likened it to the Kingdom of heaven to communicate the purpose of His Coming to call a people to Himself. Matt. 22:1-14
 - a. All made light of the invitation, speaking of the Jewish nation.
 - b. His servants were sent out to the highways to invite people, speaking of the Gentiles.
 - c. The wedding garments provided were to be worn or a person was cast out, speaking of eternal damnation, as was the case with one man.
 - * The message was the gift of salvation, providing our needed righteousness!

4. Paul says through the death of Christ Jews were dead to the law and free to marry another, namely Christ, to bring forth fruit unto God. Rom. 7:4
 - a. The Law condemns man.
 - b. The gospel of Grace saves man.
5. John the Baptist said he was the friend of the bridegroom, who would hand over the bride to the groom, Christ, because John's disciples pointed out that all were going to Jesus for baptism. Jn. 3:25-29

* I have performed many weddings, I have never seen two things, a bride dragged up or a bride given to the groom's friend!
6. The bride figure reaches its climax in the relationship of husband and wife placed side by side with that of Christ and His church, a great mystery. Eph. 5:21-33
 - a. The husband is to love his wife as Christ love the church, evident by dying for her!

* A tall order, impossible without Christ!
 - b. The church, as a bride in her relationship united to Christ, is espoused as a chaste virgin. 2Cor. 11:2
 - 1) Her purity is not her own. Is. 64:6
 - 2) Her purity is given to her by virtue of Christ giving Himself for her and His word purifies her and will present her without spot, wrinkle or any such thing at the final day. Eph. 5:26-27

- 3) This type of love causes us to be enamored and love Christ forever!
- c. The bride in her submissive attitude towards Christ is uncompromising, in everything. Eph. 5:24
 - 1) The word subject "hupotasso" a military term means to line up under.

* All who served in the military know that you salute the rank not the man!
 - 2) The word never implies inferiority, for Christ is said to submit "hupotasso" to the Father in His created order, for the redemption of man. 1Cor. 11:3
 - a) It is for efficiency and effectiveness.
 - b) It is in response to His love by giving Himself for His bride.

* Christ is the head of the church, to protect, provide and plan for her future, even as a husband does so for his wife, if he should die first.
 - 3) The husband is to follow Christ's example towards his wife!
7. The espousal was as binding as marriage, in the pledge and expectance of her future groom.
 - a. Paul reveals Christ will come for His Church as He remove her from the earth and she is caught up in the air, to always be with the Lord. 1Thess. 4:17

- b. John reveals the long awaited day as Christ returns to set up the Kingdom with His bride, arrayed in white. Rev. 19:6-9
- c. John comment is, “Blessed are they which are called into the marriage supper of the lamb”. Rev. 19:9

Illustration

Westcott comment on Eph. 5:26-27, “He loved the Church not because it was holy, but in order to make it holy by union with Himself. The husband’s love must bear the same test, and overcome all failings of the wife. She is part of him, as Christians are of Christ, and claims the same tender affection which Christ bestows on the Church”. (Church paper, The Bride p.p. 11)

Application

1. If a person understands the nature of the church from the Scriptures they will be able to reject and expose any and all teachings that do violence to the nature of the church.
 - a. At any period of history.
 - b. At any period of a person’s life.
 - c. At any period and life of the church they attend.
 - d. At any place in the world.

* “These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the **Scriptures** daily to find out whether these things were so.” Acts 17:11

2. If a person understands the nature of the church from the Scriptures, they know that Jesus makes Himself fully responsible for His church.
 - a. Jesus saves people by the preaching of the gospel. Rom. 10:17
 - b. Jesus convicts sinners of their sins, righteousness and judgment by the person of the Holy Spirit. Jn. 14:16
 - c. Jesus defends and fights for His church through any persecution being faithful, the gates of Hell will not prevail against His church. Matt. 16:18
 - d. Jesus guides and directs His church. Acts 1-28
 - e. Jesus provides a place, the finances necessary for His church super-naturally and His people.
 - * “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” Eph. 3:20-21

This is what the Church is according to the Bible!

II. What is the developed concept of the church?

- Paul is the one we are indebted to, for the developed concept of the church in Scripture, especially his prison epistles of Ephesians and Colossians.
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- A. Every one in the church has equal standing, in the beloved. Eph. 1:6
1. Christ is the head and the church is His body. Eph. 1:22-23; 5:23
 2. All are saved by grace, through faith. Eph. 2:8
 3. All are God's workmanship in Christ. Eph. 2:10
 4. All are one in Christ, the middle wall of partition has been broken down between Jew and Gentile or any other cultural, racial or economic boundaries. Eph. 2:14
* Do you remember the difficulty in attempting to find the common denominator in fractions, Jesus is our common denominator!
 5. All the church is built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, the gospel of Christ, Christ being the chief corner stone. Eph. 2:20
 6. All individually and collectively comprise the temple of God. Eph. 2:21-22
 7. All have access to the full knowledge about the church, a mystery hidden in Christ, for ages till the New Testament. Eph. 3:9
 8. All the church is now an open display of God's wisdom to the angels in heaven. Eph. 3:10
 9. All are connected in Christ to each other, in order to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of the body. Eph. 4:16

- B. Every one in the church is different, so the body is comprised of many members, yet it is one body, as illustrated in the Scriptures.
1. All have received a measure of faith. Rom. 12:3
 2. All have not the same office. Rom. 12:4
 3. All have different gifts according to grace. Rom. 12:6; Eph. 4:7
 4. All are given gifts as God divides severally as He wills. 1Cor. 12:11, 18
 5. All is God's divine sovereign work by His Spirit, in the diversity of the church, the body of Christ, making the church a **living organism**, not an organization to be run as a corporation with management principles.
 - a. There is organization, but only that found in the Bible!
 - b. There is to be a shared effectiveness, yet the bigger the church the easier it is for people to hide!
 6. All are to recognize Christ as the head.
 7. All are to be seeking out their gifts.
 8. All are to be exercising their gifts.
 9. All are to see themselves as parts of the whole body.
* Pasadena is but a small portion of the entire church body of Christ.
 10. All are to recognize their importance for the life of the body.
* Listen to the comment of Wuest, the Greek commentator, "The life of the

Head flowing through the bands of supply, is constantly joining together and causing to grow together the individual members, this process being controlled or dominated by the operative energy put forth, the volume or strength of this operative energy coming from the Head of the Body, being determined by the capacity of each part to hold and allow to operate in him or her.” Wuest, Vol. 1:1975, 105

11. All are to recognize the privilege of being called by God, through election.
12. All are to strive to glorify God, not man or self.
 - a. In our interdependence, we need one another, in our interrelations, we affect one another.
 - b. Today people believe that it does not matter how people live, yet do any of us believe a member of a family can live any way they want and not affect the rest of the members? I don't think so, it is the same in the church!

C. Every time the word church appears, the context must be examined for it is used in four different ways.

1. The universal church is represented by the entire company of believers in Christ, both

living and dead. Matt. 16:28; 1Cor. 10:32; Gal. 1:13; Eph. 1:22

2. The local church is the actual assembly of believers in one place gathered for fellowship, such as the church of Antioch, Cenchrea, Corinth, Thessalonica or Pasadena. Matt. 18:17; Acts 13:1; Rom. 16:1; 1Cor. 1:2; 1Thess. 1:1; Col. 4:16
3. The assembly of believers as the actual gathering of believers in one place for different kinds fellowship. 1Cor. 11:18; 14:19, 23
4. The small house church were those congregations that met in the home. Rom. 16:5; 1Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:15
 - a. Of the 115 times the word church “ekklesia” appears, only five refer to an assembly or Israel. Acts 7:38; 19:32, 39, 41; Heb. 2:12
 - b. At Pentecost the church was officially birthed by the Holy Spirit. Acts 2
 - c. God is the One Who adds to the church daily such as should be saved. Acts 2:47
 - d. All are called to the straight and narrow path and to enter by the one door, which is Christ and become part of His church.

Illustration

If you have one battery you have a certain amount of power, but with ten batteries together the power becomes ten fold, so the members of the church.

Application

1. If a person understands the nature of the church from the Scriptures, a person will not fall prey to new philosophies that contradict, alter or supplement the concept of the church in the New Testament.

- a.** Like the Gnostics taught that matter was evil and spirit was good, therefore a person could worship God in spirit and partake of evil vices and one would not affect the other.
- b.** Like the Catholic Church that teaches salvation through the Roman Catholic Church, alone, with her many dogmas of works for salvation, Mary as co-redemptress, saints and virgins as intercessors, etc.
- c.** Like the teaching of Universalism, that everyone is a child of God and all are going to be in heaven, not so!
* Jesus said, "I AM the way, the truth and the life, and no man comes to the Father but by Me." Jn. 14:6

2. If a person understands the nature of the church in the Scriptures, a person will not be swayed by the intellectual approach that exalts itself against the Biblical teaching about the church by men that are sincerely wrong.

- a.** Robert Shuler was the pioneer of the church growth movement, appealing to the intellect of man with possibility thinking of Norman Peel and others, believing in yourself.
- b.** Donald McGavran was dean and Senior Professor of Missions and church Growth, at

Fuller Seminary and Peter Wagner, now deceased took his chair.

- 1)** McGavran, Donald, Under-standing Church Growth
- 2)** Wagner, C. Peter. Leading Your Church to Growth
- c.** The late John Wimber, leader of the Vineyard ministries, taught with Peter Wagner at Fuller Seminary the course Signs and Wonders, to evangelize unbelievers through signs and wonders, teaching to heal, raise the dead, etc.
* We are not to follow signs and wonders, but they are to follow the believer!
- 3.** If a person understands the nature of the church Scripturally, a person will not fall prey to the various movements that promise to make the church grow, through their man made methods and doctrines that corrupting the nature of the church.
 - a.** The positive confession and health and wealth doctrine that teaches that all Christians are to be healthy and wealthy and if not they lack faith.
* They make a big distinction between the Greek words "logos" and "rhema". The spoken word of faith, speaking and believing only positive things, not negative things, lest you bring them on yourself. Yet not one Greek Scholar would ever agree with them, only their own seminaries.
 - b.** The "Seeker Friendly church Movement" of Rick Warren is based on the principles of church growth, seeking to be culturally relevant

with a social gospel, according to the people's desire, at the expense of the Gospel, sin and repentance, being one of the major ecumenical church movements.

- 1) Pastor Rich Warren, is the golden calf of this movement, with his 40 day Purpose book, guaranteeing your church to double in size.
- 2) "And the Lord **added** to the church daily those who were being saved." Acts 2:47b
- c. The "Emergent Church Movement" with its "New Reformation", "Generous Orthodoxy", which is nothing but philosophical paganism called Christianity, misrepresenting the gospel and Christianity, a good example of syncretism.
 - 1) Rich Warren is the stepping stone to the "Emergent Church Movement" that rejects the Bible as the authority, despising anyone studying prophecy for the return of Christ.
 - 2) Brian McLaren says the book of Revelation is about "the Kingdom of God now", claiming Jesus had nothing to say about a period of catastrophic judgment. (Faith Undone:158)
 - 3) Leonard Sweet, Dan Kimball, Thomas Merton, Richard Foster are some of the Gurus of the Emerging Church Movement, that Warren embraces, being the stepping-stone to the "ECM.
 - 4) They do not believe the life of Jesus was the atoning sacrifice for the sins off all the world, but merely an example to follow, nor

do they believe you can know anything with certainty from the Scriptures! "Faith Undone, Roger Oakland, Ray Yungen, Warren Smith.

- 5) The "Emerging church" seeks to establish the Kingdom of God through good works.
 - a) Undermining the word of God and Gospel of grace for salvation.
 - b) Including all faiths as being spiritual, not having to be saved by the gospel of grace, being ecumenical.
 - c) Mixing mystical practices of Catholicism, Hinduism and New Age, contradict the gospel of grace.

This is the developed concept of the church according to the Bible!

III. What is the church to do?

- * This describes her Function! Is the church to be known for bake sales, to raise money, to be a substitute parent, meeting everyone of your needs or entertain you? NO!
- A. The Church has a **mission** to the lost, the great commission. Matt. 28:18-20
 1. By calling people into the kingdom, through preaching the gospel and the Holy Spirit saving those who are lost.
 - a. The word preach "kerusso" appears 61 times in the New Testament.

- 1) The figure was of considerable importance in the ancient world.
 - 2) The man was one of integrity and character employed by the King or State to make public proclamations.
 - 3) The herald's authority was not his own, but vested to him by the King.
 - 4) The herald's message was not his own, but given to him by the Kings.
 - 5) The herald was not responsible for the response, only to proclamation of the message, but he always expected and looked for response.
 - a) Jesus called the twelve disciples, they responded and He made them apostles. Lk. 6:12-16
 - b) Peter called and 3,000 were saved at Pentecost. Acts 2:41
 - c) Paul called many Gentiles and they were saved. Acts 9-28
2. By seeing people sent out **by the Lord Jesus**, as labors and missionaries.
- a. Jesus is the primary example, the greatest missionary, sent by the Father. Jn. 17:4-6, 16-18, 20
 - b. Jesus sent the twelve disciples and seventy others out to the lost, after they were saved. Lk. 9:1-6; 10:1-12
 - c. Jesus gave the Great Commission to His disciples. Matt. 28:18-20

- d. Jesus called Barnabas and Saul to the mission field. Acts 13:1-3
 - 1) We have done missions in Germany, Bulgaria, Scotland, the Philippines, Japan, countries in South and Central America, Mexico, the South Pacific, Fiji, Tonga, New Zealand, etc.
 - 2) Jesus said, "Whoever desires to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." Mk. 8:34
 - 3) We are to occupy till He comes!
- B.** The Church has a **ministry** to the Church, to nurture the saints. Eph. 4:1-16
- * This is discipleship, those once lost, become students of the word of God, even as the twelve disciples of Jesus!
1. By the men God has called and gifted, apostles, prophets, evangelist and Pastor-teachers. vs. 11
 2. For the equipping of the members for the work of the ministry and edifying of the body. vs. 12
 3. Till we all come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God to a mature man, to the measure and stature of the fullness of Christ. vs. 13
- * You need physical, mental and emotional maturity in life, but also spiritually, in the life of a Christian!

4. That they be no longer children tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness by which they lie in wait to deceive. vs. 14
5. But speaking the truth in love and grow up in all things into Him who is the head Christ. vs. 15
6. To ensure the health and effectiveness of the body by every part supplying it's full effectiveness to edify the body in love. vs. 16
 - a. Jesus said, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. I Am the vine, you are the branches." Jn. 8:31-32; 15:5
 - b. Christ will reward us only for what has been done in agape love! 1Cor. 4:5

C. The Church has a **mandate**, to worship God. Rev. 4:4-10; 5:9-10

1. The picture is the church before the throne in heaven, casting their crowns at his feet!
 - a. The identity can only fit the church.
 - b. The theme of heaven is worship, so it is to be in the church on earth!
2. Worship comes from an Anglo-Saxon word meaning "to attribute worth to something", (Weorthscipe)

- a. Most words in the Old Testament communicate the idea to prostrate oneself before God in awe of the person of God.
 - b. Moses at Sinai and Ezekiel in Babylon are good examples. Ex. 34:8; Ezk. 1:28; 3:23; 9:8; 11:13; 43:3; 44:4
 - c. Worship is understanding and being aware of God's holiness and one's unworthiness!
 - d. Isaiah says, "Woe to me". Is. 6:5; 64:6
3. Worship results from God's word and the Holy Spirit filling our heart. Eph. 5:18-19; Col. 3:16-17
- a. Corporate worship is important, but must never substitute or replace personal worship.
 - b. Our worship is in Spirit and in truth. Jn. 4:23-24

* That is why the church, the community of God's redeemed are said to be "living stones, a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ". 1Pet. 2:5
4. Worship should never be confined to a vocal expression or bodily posture but service and obedience to God.
- a. In obedience we worship Him by acknowledging Him as our Savior and Lord.

- b. In service we worship Him by doing it in His name and through His love, in order to give people a proper representation of who God is.
 - * Trusting not in our abilities or powers, but those of Christ, through His gifts and Holy Spirit!

Illustration

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” Gal. 3:28

“where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, **Scythian**, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.” Col. 3:11

Application

1. The majority of the church of today looks more like the church of Laodicea, the lukewarm church, trusting in her wealth, likeness and oneness with the world, a false church.

- a. Jesus exposed her self-deception, “Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’ --and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked--” Rev. 3:17
- b. Jesus condemns her, if she does not repent, “So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.” Rev. 3:16

2. The mission of the church is primarily not to do good works, but to proclaim the gospel and be known for its faith in Christ Jesus.

- a. I am a Pastor-teacher, not an evangelist, yet I always end with a prayer of repentance for those wanting to repent, be forgiven of their sins and saved right where they sit.
 - * For God adds to the church such as should be saved!
- b. The teaching of social activism elevates good works, making faith in Jesus secondary, being a false gospel.
- c. The Seeker Friendly Movement of Rich Warren has a P.E.A.C.E. plan to rid the world of poverty, hunger and AIDS.
- d. Warren believes the church is going to bring in the Kingdom of God by good works, rather than Jesus establishing it with His Church, in fact he believes studying prophecy, particularly the Second Coming, is a waste of time.
 - * Paul makes it very clear that “faith” comes first, being born again, then works follow, not the reverse and James confirms this basic principle. Rom. 1:17; 3:22; Ja. 2:14-18
- e. The Emergent Church teaches that pagans are worshipping Jesus, they just do not know it, so all we have to do is tell them and they can continue in their pagan practices and be Christians, not according to Scripture!
 - * Paul declared, “For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had

to you, and how you **turned** to God from **idols** to serve the living and true God,”

1Thess. 1:9

3. The ministry of the church is to teach the word of God to the saints.
 - a. Today the visible church is teaching Political Correctness and ecumenical gospel of oneness, one with the worlds philosophy.
 - b. No one wants to make judgments or expose what is wrong and clear error, when it comes to the Scriptures.
 - c. Rick Warren believes that all faiths can work together and invites all to be one, Christian and non-Christian, this is “ecumenicalism”.
 - d. Rick Warren promotes the “Emergent Church” that teaches all can have a God encounter with God, through “Contemplative Prayer” by silencing your minds, a practice of Yoga and you don’t have to come in the name of Jesus.

* “This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. These things command and teach. Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.” 1Tim. 4:9-13

4. The mandate of the church is to worship Jesus Christ, who is God.

- a. Him and Him, alone.
- b. With all our heart, mind and strength.
- c. According to the word of God.

* “Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to **worship** before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. Then he said to me, “See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. **Worship** God.” Rev. 22:8-9

This is what the church is to do according to the Bible!

Conclusion

This is what the Church is nature!

- I. The Church is a called-out people for the purpose of hearing and obey the voice of God, the bride of Christ, according to the Bible!
- II. The developed concept of the Church, is the body of Christ He is the head and Church is His body, through the various members, according to the Bible!
- III. The Church is to be seeking the lost, maturing the saints and the worshipping Jesus, according to the Bible!