

Study Guide

Many times we struggle to get a solid biblical understanding of the different topics in the Bible. Are we really punished for Adam's sin? What is the purpose of angels? What do the end times look like?

This course will tackle these topics and many more and unpack them in a way that isn't just theoretical but actually relates to your Christian life.

Corresponding teaching videos can be found online at:

churchoftherock.ca/watch-online/series/crashcoursecreeds/

Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

 **CHURCH OF THE ROCK™**
1397 Buffalo Place, Winnipeg, MB R3T 1L6
churchoftherock.ca / 204-261-0070

ECCLESIOLOGY – Doctrine of the Church

A Crash Course in Creeds - Session 5



“Ekklesia” (Greek) = Church

WHAT MAKES A CHURCH?

Acts 2:42–47 NIV - They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

1. Evangelism
2. Teaching
3. Fellowship
4. Breaking Bread
5. Prayer
6. Unity

Biblical Images of the Church

BUILDING - Ephesians 2

JESUS = THE CORNERSTONE

- The foundation is “the apostles and prophets,” (shorthand for the New Testament teachings about who Jesus is and what he has done) with “Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone” ([Ephesians 2:20](#) NIV).
- The cornerstone section of the foundation serves as a reference from which all other measurements are made.
- Jesus and his completed work must be at the centre.

BODY: 1 Corinthians 12

JESUS = THE HEAD

- Though a body is one unit, it consists of many components.

1 Corinthians 12:18 NIV - *God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.*

- In Christ we should have unity, yet diversity.
- Mutual dependence

1 Corinthians 12:26 NIV - *If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it.*

Visible and invisible

Matthew 13:24–30 NIV

Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

The owner's servants came to him and said, "Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?"

"An enemy did this," he replied.

The servants asked him, "Do you want us to go and pull them up?"

"No," he answered, "because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn."

- Theologians throughout history have distinguished between the "visible" and "invisible" Church. The true people of God are largely a part of the "invisible" Church.

BRIDE (Revelation 19/Ephesians 5:25)

THE LAMB = THE GROOM

- Right through the Scriptures, in both the Old and New Testaments, runs the picture of God's relentless pursuit of a bride.
- Imagery culminates in the marriage feast of the Lamb, found in [Revelation 19](#), at which point we see a perfect bride coming before our all-conquering Saviour.

Ephesians 5:25 NIV - *Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.*

Leadership Structure

Ephesians 4:11–12 NIV - *So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ...*

- Equipping Ministry (Edify)
- Apostles (Peter, Paul)
- Prophet (Judas/Silas - [Acts 15](#))
- Evangelist (Philip - [Acts 15](#))
- Pastor (Timothy, Barnabas)
- Teacher (Apollos)
- Elders/Bishops/Overseers
- Deacons/Minister - [1 Timothy 3](#)
- Council of Jerusalem - [Acts 15](#)

“In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things charity”

- Evangelicals: priesthood of all believers
- Catholic: big divide between clergy and laity

The Three Levels of Church

A) UNIVERSAL CHURCH ([Ephesians 1:22](#), [Hebrews 12:22-23](#))

- Made up of all born again Christians both in Heaven and in earth
- Most often in reference to the worldwide church

B) THE LOCAL CHURCH ([1 Corinthians 16:19](#))

- The church “that meets in the house of Aquilla & Pricilla”
- The church congregation in a specific location (church building or home)

C) THE CITY CHURCH ([1 Corinthians 14:23](#), [Revelation 2 & 3](#))

- The local churches in a city that make up the citywide expression of the church in an area
- Scripture speaks more of this than any other form of the church
- Appoint elder – one for each local – together- city

The Church and the Kingdom of God

WHAT DO THINGS LOOK LIKE WHEN GOD IS IN CHARGE?

Matthew 16:18–19 NIV - *And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.*

- A “royal nation” ([1 Peter 2:9](#))

THE CHURCH IS TO BE AN AGENT OF THE KINGDOM

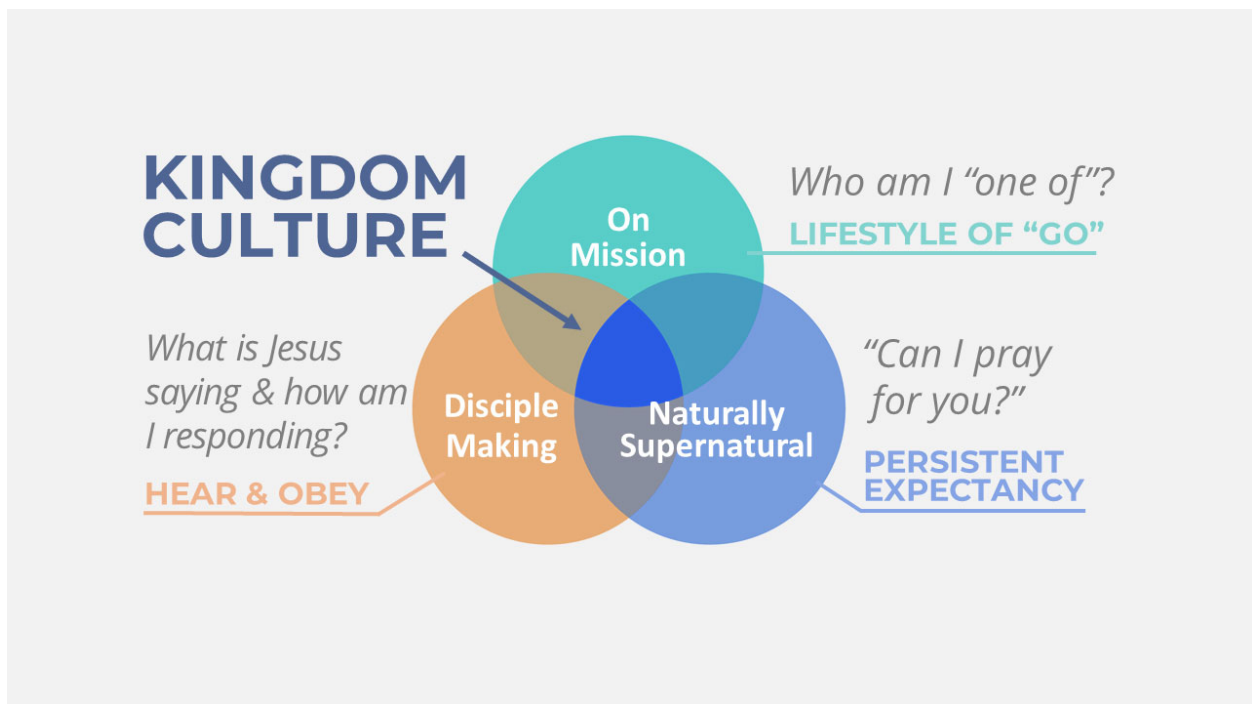
1 Peter 2:9 ESV - *You are . . . a royal priesthood, a holy nation . . . that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

- Christians go into the world as witnesses of the kingdom ([Acts 1:6-8](#))

KINGDOM OF GOD: EVERYTHING THAT IS UNDER GOD’S RULE/CONTROL

- The church is called to advance Kingdom of God ([Acts 1:3](#), [Colossians 4:11](#))

The Church as a Vehicle of the Kingdom





Discussion Questions

1. What are the joys of church?

2. Does being a “consumer Christian” impede a person from experiencing everything God created the church to be? (e.g. going to church vs. being the church, leaving when we don’t like something, etc.)

3. What images come to mind when you think of the kingdom of God?

4. What part should the church play in the kingdom of God?

5. Our small group watches a number of really great Bible teachers, gives online and loves each other. Is this a biblical expression of church?