

Teachings of Jesus - # 8 The Church

Memory Verse

John 17:20–21 *"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me."*

The word. "Church" comes from the Old English and German word pronounced "kirche." In Scotland, it was "kirk." Thus, koo-ree-ak-os' , "kuriakos" (i.e., "church") means "pertaining to or belonging to the lord." "Ku-ri-os, which means "lord." ekklēsia - ek-klay-see'-ah. From a compound of "ek" and a derivative of "kaleho" a calling out.

Gen 3:15 *And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

Rev 12:17 *And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

Isa 8:16 *Bind up the testimony, Seal the law among my disciples.*

Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Joash, Judah.... Were remnants.

The Foundation of the Church

Ephesians 2:19–22 *Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 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.*

Acts 4:11–12 (NKJV) *This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

***1 Corinthians 3:11** *For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

Psalms 28:1 (NKJV) *To You I will cry, O LORD my Rock: Do not be silent to me, Lest, if You are silent to me, I become like those who go down to the pit.*

Luke 6:47–49 (NKJV) *Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: ⁴⁸ He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. ⁴⁹ But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great."*

Matthew 16:18 (NKJV) *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.*

Christ's Prayer for Unity

Although the agony of the Cross was before Him, His greatest concern was not for Himself but for His followers. John 17 presents Jesus' longest intercessory prayer recorded in the Bible.

John 17:20–21 (NKJV) *"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.*

***Acts 2:1** *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.*

Mat 18:20 *"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."* **Getting together is important ingredient.**

Christ's Provision for Unity

John 17:17 (NKJV) *Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*

1 Corinthians 12:13 (NKJV) *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.*

***Ephesians 4:4–6** *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

Romans 12:10 *Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;*

Col 3:12,13 *Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, long-suffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.*

“In Essentials Unity, In Non-Essentials Liberty, In All Things Charity”

German Lutheran theologian - Rupertus Meldenius. 1627

**Nonessentials = Seven trumpets, 144,000 literal?,
Essentials = Not all essentials may be in the baptismal certificate
and the 28 fundamentals. How often communion, Foot washing?
Baptism by immersion? Evolution creation? Biblical distinctions
between men and women? Tithing?**

TRUTH, FOUNDATION FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

“To remain divided is sinful! Did not our Lord pray, that they may be one, even as we are one”? (John 17:22). A chorus of ecumenical voices keep harping the unity tune. What they are saying is, “Christians of all doctrinal shades and beliefs must come together in one visible organization, regardless... Unite, unite!” Such teaching is false, reckless and dangerous. Truth alone must determine our alignments. Truth comes before unity. Unity without truth is hazardous. Our Lord’s prayer in John 17 must be read in its full context. Look at verse 17: “Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth.” Only those sanctified through the Word can be one in Christ. To teach otherwise is to betray the Gospel. -Charles Spurgeon

"We cannot purchase peace and unity by sacrificing the truth. The conflict may be long and painful, but at any cost we must hold fast to the Word of God" EGW (Historical Sketches 197).

A Great Obstacle for Unity

Proverbs 16:28 *A froward man soweth strife: And a whisperer separateth chief friends.*

How many problems could we avoid if we would all obey the divine command: “You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people” (Lev. 19:16, NKJV).

Proverbs 26:20 (NKJV) *Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; And where there is no talebearer, strife ceases.*

***Luke 22:24 (NKJV)** *Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest.*

Matthew 20:20-28 ... *She said to Him, "Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom."*

Every Bible ship had storms, Noah, Jonah, Peter, Paul.

- The most dangerous characteristics in a church member are a cold heart and a hot head.

1 Samuel 18:7–9 (NKJV) *So the women sang as they danced, and said: “Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands.” Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, “They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed only thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?” So Saul eyed David from that day forward.*

The Restoration of Unity

2 Chronicles 7:14 *if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*
***James 4:6** *“But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”*

“Union is strength; division is weakness. When those who believe present truth are united, they exert a telling influence. Satan well understands this. Never was he more determined than now to make of none effect the truth of God by causing bitterness and dissension among the Lord's people.” — Ellen G. White, Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 236.

“We should endeavor to think well of all men, especially our brethren, until compelled to think otherwise. We should not hastily credit evil reports. These are often the result of envy or misunderstanding, or they may proceed from exaggeration or a partial disclosure of facts.” -Page 58.