

What Is Church?

RESET: Part 6

Nathaniel Sorensen * October 24, 2021 * New Life Vineyard Church

In spite of its failures, no one group has done more to advance the well-being of humanity than the Christian _____.

“I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you must also love one another. By this all people will now that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 13:34-35

A healthy church needs to be _____.

FIRSTS AND LASTS

Jesus’ last prayer before crucifixion

Jesus spoke these things, looked up to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son so that the Son may glorify You, for You gave Him authority over all flesh; so He may give eternal life to all You have given Him. This is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and the One You have sent – Jesus Christ. I have glorified You on the earth by completing the work You gave Me to do. Now, Father, Me in Your presence with that glory I had with You before the world existed...”

“Father, I desire those You have given Me to be with Me where I am. Then they will see My glory, which You have given Me because You love Me before the world’s foundation.”

John 17:1-5, 24

The Word became flesh and took up residence among us. We observed His glory, the glory as the One and Only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth...

No one has ever seen God. The One and Only Son – the One who is at the Father’s side – He has revealed Him.

John 1:14, 18

“Church” = *Ekklesia* = Gathering/Assembly

First use of *ekklesia* in the Bible

“The day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, the LORD said to me, ‘Assemble the people before Me, and I will let them hear My words, so that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth and may instruct their children.’”

Deuteronomy 4:10

First reference to ‘church’ by Jesus

“But you,” He asked them, “who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God!” And Jesus responded, “Simon son of Jonah, you are blessed because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church and the forces of Hades will not overpower it.”

Matthew 16:15-18

Last teaching from Jesus before ascension

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20

** All scriptures from HCSB unless otherwise noted*