

# 890108PM.DOC

## THE CHURCH – A SHARED LIFE

### MATTHEW 16:18

The church is literally the ekklesia, “called out ones”. Our study is a biblical portrait of who and what we are... More than a 160 year old organization we are an organism... The Scriptures call us the body of Christ, a living, growing body called to existence by Christ!!

The New Testament portrait of the church starts in the gospels and finds its completed detail in the epistles.

- I. DIVINELY FORMED AND KEPT (Mt. 16, 18) Look at Mt. 16:18 – Christ is building it, but how?
  - A. Called by God into being (Eph. 1:3, 6, 10)  
Eight aspects > 3:6, 10
  - B. Equipped by the Spirit for His purposes  
1 Cor. 12:7-11, 12-14 = spiritual gifts each  
Eph. 4:11-12 = gifts of pastor-teachers  
We will examine pastorals = qualified leaders
  - C. Disciplined by Christ for purity (Mt. 18:15-20)  
Steps 1-4  
Promise v. 20, Christ there  
Also 1 Cor. 5, Rev. 2-3, see Christ personally involved

Not only are we as the church divinely former. We are also directly commissioned.  
Open to Mt. 28.

#### II. DIRECTLY COMMISSIONED

- A. Make disciples (Mt. 28:19-20)  
– as going, baptizing and teaching  
--Acts 1:8....
- B. Offer true worship  
--Jn. 4:23-24  
--Phil. 3:3

So, divinely formed, directly commissioned. What else?

#### III. DISTINCTLY DESCRIBED – Acts and Epistles:

Let's go to Acts tonight and get the flow:

Gospels: Ministry, promise... death, resurrection

Acts: re-commission, ascension

WOW – Acts 2:37-41 – 3,000

v. 42 all together!

How did this happen? Back up to 1:14 and note a chain of events: shared lives were seen in-

## HOMOTHUMADON Our Shared Passion ACTS 1:14

Adv – “with one purpose, mind, accord, unanimously”

Acts (11x) 7x

1. 1:14 continued one accord – prayer (com.)
2. 2:1 all one accord in one place (fell)
3. 2:46 daily with one accord in the Temple - worship
4. 4:24 voice to God with one accord – prayer (communion)
5. 5:12 all with one accord – temple (worship) see also 5:20
6. 8:6 people without accord gave heed – resp. (response)
7. 15:25 (leaders) without accord [become one mind] – decisions (direction)

So they had this incredible start. It was based on a shared life that is as stated: “distinctly described”.

How so? Well, Paul the wordsmith makes words with a preposition:

sun = with, together, fellow... No less than ten times!! Unique word pictures that tell us in a down-to-earth way how to be as a church!

A shared life comes as we are: shared life is realized as we are ⇒

- A. Living in the world – most aware of this!! This is our outward manifestation of being Christ's body.
- B. Serving in the body <inward> - This is our task at QBC.
- C. Pursuing Christ-likeness <upward> - This is our lifelong goal.

\*Each of these aspects to be lived out is pointedly described by means of vivid word pictures. We are:

1. Living in world to be: (outward)  
Sumpolites = fellow citizens (Phil. 3)  
Sumergoi = fellow workers (Rom. 16)  
Sumkoinonia = fellow partners
2. Serving in the body (inward)  
Sumpathco = fellow feelers (1 Pet. 3:8)  
= fellow comforters (Rom. 1:1)  
= fellow slaves (Cor. 1)
3. Pursuing Christ-likeness (upward)  
Fellow life sharers (Phil. 2)  
Fellow imitators (Phil. 3)  
Fellow heirs... (Eph. 3)