

Eisenhower Church of Christ

How Many Churches did Christ Build?

Remarkably, it appears that everyone in the modern religious world realizes that there is a church found in God's Word, the Bible. But what church is it where people begin making misapplication. The religious world believes in a particular belief that all churches that are in existence make up the church that you read about in the Bible. This is known as the ecumenical movement. They teach that it does not matter what belief, practice, worship or name you call yourself, it does make you another church, but that every church makes up that church you see in the New Testament. In other words, you are just another piece of the big pie. They teach it as "unity in diversity," which is a contradiction by definition and terminology. Is this true? Are there multiple churches that make up the church you read about in the Bible?

There are multiple ways to show what the Bible teaches about this. One is the usage of the definite article "THE." When the definite article "THE" is used, it pinpoints *specific*—rather than using either the indefinite article "A" or "AN." that shows *generic*. We see this usage in Matthew 16:19 when it says, "The Kingdom." We also see this in Acts 2:47 when it says, "The church." and in Ephesians 5:23-25 where it says. "The church" two times and "The body" once. There are multiple other passages that we can look at, but these will suffice. Another way of seeing how many churches found in the Bible is by looking at the numerical usage in the text. What I mean by this is seeing if the Bible uses the words as plural or singular in usage. For instance, in Matthew 16:18, Jesus uses the word "CHURCH" and not "churches". We also see in Acts 2:47 that Luke records that the Lord added to the "CHURCH" daily. We also see in Ephesians 1:22-23 that Paul uses the words "CHURCH" and "BODY" when speaking of the church. But why is this important? It is important because from its infancy, God only spoke of THE CHURCH due to the obvious fact that He established only ONE. Even though the world may be saying that there are numerous churches in existence, only ONE is His BODY, His CHURCH and His KINGDOM.

Allow me ask you, "Do you think that our Lord knows which church is His among all these other churches?" Of course, He does! If you are the one who built something, you know which one you built! You can see this understanding where in Matthew 16:18 the Lord said, "I will build MY CHURCH". Paul says, in Ephesians 5:23, that 'CHRIST is THE HEAD of the church, and He is THE SAVIOR of the body." Going further, Paul even says in Ephesians 1:22-23, that the church Christ is over is "HIS BODY" and "THE FULLNESS of Him who fills all in all." Through Paul's pen, the Lord gives us the seven (7) ones in Ephesians 4. There we see that there is only "ONE BODY." When inspiration has spoken, there is no more discussion, justification, or room for thought. The Lord has made very clear where He stands on the matter. He has built only ONE CHURCH. We will have to be a member of that ONE CHURCH to go to Heaven (1 Corinthians 15:24; Ephesians 5:23). My prayer for everyone is that all of us will do what we need to do in order to have a

home in Heaven as our eternal reward. But that being said, everyone will have to make the decision to be in that ONE CHURCH, the church that is found in the Bible.

Are you a member of the church that you read about in the Bible?

—Wes Garland

Sympathy

Our prayers go out to Larry May's cousin who lost his wife, **Patty Archer**, on July 25th, due to a longtime illness. Her funeral service was held yesterday in Amarillo, TX. Patty was a member of the Lord's church there in Amarillo.

Prayer Requests

Prayers are requested for three of Anita Henderson's family members (Anita is Rudy and Emma's granddaughter) who had two cousins that were in a three-vehicle crash on July 17th in San Angelo at US 87. **Morgan** lost her 2 year old daughter in the crash. Both Morgan and her 4 year old daughter were seriously injured and had to undergo surgeries. And, **James Palmour** is currently hospitalized with numerous broken bones including broken ankles and pelvis and in very serious condition.

Concerns Update

Charlie Carson (Jacob's dad) was released from Encompass to go home last Saturday. Continue to keep him in your prayers.

Prayer List

Maria Baeza; Betty Branson; Mary Brown; Naomi and Adelynn Bustillos; Glenna Callendar; Arthur Campos; Sylvia Campos; Charlie Carson; LaDonna Chism; James Drake; Glenda Driver; Cathy Eastwood; Daniel Eastwood; Aisha Garcia; Becky Gillespie; Hattie Gilmore; Paul Gunn; Doug Guynn; Cheri Hodges; Lon & Lana Howard; Connie Jimenez; Shane Lester; Charles Lewis; Leigh Ann McFarland; Juan & Estella Morolez; Joe Morrison; Emma Ochoa; Bruce & Trina Plyler; Linda Straw; Bill Tate; Atasi Titlow; Marilyn Upshaw; Jurlean Warren; Terresia Weaver; Josh Wells; Carolyn Wilkerson; Ron Williams; Jefferson Wood; John Wood; Natalynn Wood.

Eisenhower's Homebound....

Glenna Callendar; James & Joyce Drake; Ronda Lyne; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley & Marilyn Upshaw.

Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military and the spiritually weak in your daily prayers.

Events

Watch "***In Search of the Lord's Way***" Sunday mornings at 7:30 am on KWES TV 9.

Office News

Today is our "**Potluck Luncheon**" following our morning service followed by our P.M. service. We would like to encourage all our visitors to join us for some good food and fellowship.

NOTE: We are missing an Annex Key that is on a green dowel rod. If you have this key in your possession, please turn it in to the office. We need to keep track as to where all the keys to the annex are. Thank you.

Today, there will be a “**Deacon’s Meeting**” in the library following the AM service.

On Monday, August 7th at 6:00—7:30 pm. we will have a “**Safety Training**” session conducted by the Odessa Police Department. This training is to teach us what we need to do in case of a hostile entrance into our building during our worship service or any other time.

Why Not Praise Teams?

Praise teams are popular in churches today. A praise team is typically four or eight people, men and women, who sing into microphones to lead the religious gathering in song. The Bible, however, does not support this practice. The Scriptures support a single song leader who helps those gathered to sing in unison. Women are further restricted since the Scriptures require men to lead spiritual activities in Christian mixed company.

In 1 Corinthians 12-14. Paul wrote about spiritual gifts, their purpose, and how Christians should behave when they gather to worship God on the first day of the week. 1 Corinthians 14:26 summarizes, saying everything we do during our gathering should result in edification. That means everything done should strengthen our fellowship and our faith. To that end, God, through Paul, restricted the activities in our gathering and limited the number of leaders to one at a time (see 1 Corinthians 14:26, 27, 29-31, 33). This restriction includes leading songs in our gathering (See 1 Corinthians 14:26). According to this passage, everything is to be done “one-by-one.”

1 Corinthians 14:34 also restricts the role of women in the Sunday gathering, specifically barring them from leading the congregation in any of these activities. Furthermore, 1 Timothy 2:11-12 prohibits women from leading any spiritual activity where Christians are in mixed company. God only allows a woman to lead in spiritual circumstances when no Christian man is present.

Praise teams violate God’s instruction for our worshipful activities, even when comprised only of men. The most the Scriptures authorize in a spiritual gathering of men and women is one man to lead the gathered Christians in song so that we worship together, resulting in the edification of all.

—Eli Schnell

July 30, 2023

Announcements
Song Leader
Sermon
Opening Prayer
Scripture Reading
Second Prayer
Closing Prayer

A.M.

Don Easlon
Steve Easlon
Allen Weakland
Don Easlon
David Ryan
Charles Wood
Larry May

P.M.

Don Easlon
Cody Wesson
Allen Weakland
Don Easlon
David Baldwin
Caleb York
Jacob Carson

Lords Supper

Oliver Hernandez
Bill Ryan
Richard Siler
Scot Straw

Jon Roemisch
Communion
(In Library)

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Don Easlon 288-5834 *Deacon:* Jacob Carson 940-3775 —*Pulpit:* John Wood 413-7444 —*Table:* Jon Roemisch 202-7725 —*Song Leaders:* Cody Wesson 934-4646 —*Recording Sermons:* Cody Wesson — Contributions: Jon Roemisch

Sunday AM

“Keep Yourself Balanced” (Hebrews 13:7-9)

Sunday PM

“To Whom Belongest Thou?” (I Samuel 30:13)

Our Records

Bible Class... 82

Morning Worship...NC

Evening Worship ... 81

Wednesday...81

Contribution...\$4,910.01