

ECCLESIOLOGY:

Lesson 02

The Concept of the Church

A suggested structure for study:

- I. The principles for the study of the Church
 - A. Word study
 - B. Definition
 - C. Systematic considerations
- II. The concept of the Church
 - A. The origin of the Church
 - B. The distinction of the Church
 - C. The universal Church
 - D. The local Church
 - E. The figures of the Church
- III. The function of the Church
 - A. The purpose
 - B. The leadership
 - C. The organization
 - D. The ordinances
 - E. The Ministry
- IV. The Church in time
 - A. The Church past (Church history)
 - B. The Church present
 - C. The Church future

Outline:

II. The concept of the Church

- The origin of the Church
- The distinction of the Church
- The figures of the Church

The origin of the Church:

- Matthew 4: 17, 23
- Matthew 12: 9-13, 23-24
- Matthew 13: 1-3, 10-13
- Matthew 16: 18-20
- John 15: 1-11, 26-27; 16: 7-15
- Matthew 28: 18-20
- Acts 1: 1-8;
- Acts 2: 1-6, 36-38, 47
- Acts 8: 1-3, 14-17
- Acts 10: 44-48
- Acts 11: 15

Four reasons why the Church began at Pentecost:

- 1- Christ needed to die first
- 2- Christ needed to be raised first
- 3- Christ needed to ascend first
- 4- The advent of the Holy Spirit was required first

- Lewis Sperry Chafer

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The Distinction of the Church:

- The distinction of the “local” and “universal” church
- The distinction of Israel and the Church

The Universal vs. Local Church

	Universal	Local
Number	One	Many
Members	All believers from Pentecost to the Rapture	Local gathering
Spiritual status	Believers only	Believers and unbelievers
Living or dead	Living and dead	Living only
Assembly	Cannot assemble at one place and time	Can assemble at one place and time
Visibility	Invisible	Visible
NT Material	Minority	Majority
Joining	Faith alone	Unique requirements
Denomination	All believers	Specific denomination

* Cited from Dr. Andy Wood's

The Distinction of the Church:

The distinction of the “local” and “universal” church

“Apparently, we need more than the customary twofold categorization of the church—universal and local. (1) There is the universal church—all believers in heaven or on earth. (2) There is the visible church—local churches in various areas, especially those I am acquainted with. (3) There is the local church—the particular assembly with which I have my primary and sustained relation. Every believer actually belongs to all these three aspects of the church”

- Charles Caldwell Ryrie, Basic Theology

The Distinction of the Church:

The distinction of Israel and the Church:

- 7 proofs of distinction

“There Really Is A Difference” by Renald Showers

1. Israel is a nation the Church is not
2. Israel rejected Christ the Church did not
3. OT Israel persecuted the NT Church
4. In OT “as long as a Gentile remained a Gentile, he was excluded from membership in the OT Israel”
5. OT Israel had believers and unbeliever the Church has only believers
6. “The Scriptures never called the saved Jews of OT Israel ‘the Church of God’ ... but the Scriptures did call the saved Jews (and saved Gentiles) of the NT ‘the Church of God’”
7. Paul in Romans 11 alludes to a distinction (cf. Rom. 11: 11-25)

The Distinction of the Church:

The distinction of Israel and the Church:

- 7 proofs of distinction
- The “remnant” concept
 - 1 Kings 19: 11-18
 - Isaiah 7: 3 – “a remnant shall return”
 - 1 Peter 1: 1-2
- “problem” passages:
 - Romans 2: 25-29
 - Galatians 3: 26-29; 6: 16

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The figures of the Church:

- Flock and Shepherd (John 10)
- Branches and Vine (John 15)
- New Creation and Last Adam (2 Cor. 5: 17)
- Holy temple and Cornerstone (Eph. 2: 20-22)
- Kingdom of Priests and King and High Priest (1 Pet. 2: 5-9)
- Bride and Husband (Eph. 5: 12-31)
- Body and Head (1 Cor. 12: 12-31)