

## Describing the New Testament Church

The Greek word ἐκκλησία [*ekklesia* /ek·klay·see·ah/], meaning “an assembly of citizens” (literally, “the called out”), is typically translated “Church” in the New Testament and “Assembly” or “Congregation” in the Old Testament.

The Greek word κυριακός [*kuriakos* /koo·ree·ak·os/]<sup>1</sup>, meaning “belonging to the Lord,” came into European languages as something resembling “kirk” and finally softened to the word “church” we use today. While a church building certainly belongs to the Lord, more importantly the people who meet in such a building are to be His true & holy “Church.”

- The Lord’s Church is made up of many individual members.  
Romans 12  
1 Corinthians 12
- The members are committed to the “royal law” of love.  
“The Greatest Commandment”  
“The Golden Rule”
- The members are being re-made into God’s image.  
Romans 8:29  
Galatians 2:20  
Luke 9:23  
Galatians 5:16ff

- The Lord’s Church does what Christ commands.  
“The Great Commission” Matthew 28:18-20  
The Day of Pentecost Acts 1-2  
The Conversion of Gentiles Acts 10-11  
The Missionary Journeys Acts 13ff
- From its start, the Lord’s Church focused upon certain things.  
Acts 2:42
  1. The Apostles’ Teaching of Jesus’ Teaching
  2. The Fellowship of the Saints (Breaking of Bread)
  3. Prayer
- The Lord’s Church takes care of its own.
  - The governing principle is found in
    - James 2:15-16
    - 1 John 3:17-18
    - 1 Timothy 5:8
  - The practice is seen in
    - Acts 2:45
    - 4:32-5:16
    - Acts 6:1-7
    - Acts 11:27-30; 12:25
    - The offering brought to Jerusalem by Paul from the churches he visited during his 3<sup>rd</sup> Missionary Journey
- The Lord’s Church looks forward to the Lord’s Coming  
Philippians 3:20-21  
2 Peter 3:10-18

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<sup>1</sup> Used in 1 Corinthians 11:20 & Revelation 1:10.