

The Church: It's Nature, Marks and Purposes

I. Introduction

- A.** *Ekklesia* and “The Called-Out Ones”
- B.** *Ekklesia* Used of Both the Church Universal and the Local Church (Eph 3:10)

II. The Marks of the Church

- A.** Christ is the Lord of the Church (Matt 16:18, Eph 1:18—23)
- B.** The Church is Empowered by the Holy Spirit (John 16:7, 2 Cor 3:18)
- C.** Jew and Gentile are United in One Body (Mk 3:33—35)
- D.** The Church is Held Together by the New Covenant

III. The Purposes of the Church

- A.** The Church is a Testifying Community
- B.** The Church is a Worshiping Community

IV. The Nature of the Church (Described by Metaphors)

- A.** The Church as the Body of Christ
 - 1.** The Headship of Christ (Col 1:18)
 - 2.** The Body is Dependent Upon the Head (Col 2:19, Eph 4:15—16)
 - 3.** The Unity of the Body and Head (Col 1:18)
 - 4.** The Interdependence of Each Member (1 Cor 12)
- B.** The Church as the Bride of Christ (Rev 19:7—9)
 - 1.** The Unconditional Love of Christ (Eph 5:25—27, Eph 1:4)
 - 2.** Emphasis of the Purity of the Church (2 Cor 11:2)
- C.** The Church as a Building
 - 1.** Christ as the Cornerstone of the Foundation (Eph 2:20, 1 Peter 2:6)
 - 2.** Apostles and Prophets Establish the Foundation (Eph 2:19—22, Eph 3:4—5)
 - 3.** Living Stones are Built Upon the Foundation (1 Pet 2:4—10)
- D.** The Church as the Flock of Christ
 - 1.** Christ as the Good Shepherd (Jn 10:11—15)
 - a)** Calls the Sheep (Jn 10:3—5)
 - b)** Lays His Life Down for the Sheep (Jn 10:11)
 - c)** Searches For the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:4—7)
 - 2.** Sheep are Called to Follow (Jn 10:16, 1 Cor 4:2, Phil 2:8—9)
 - 3.** Some are Called to Be Undershepherds (1 Pet 5:1—4)