

# Let Us Grow

*And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*  
Acts 2.47b

## Added To The Church

### Lesson 3

“...as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.”

~1 Peter 2.2

God placed Christ as the head of the Church (Ephesians 1.22, Colossians 1.18). When you were baptized, the Lord added you to His body of believers that we call the Church (Acts 2.47, 5.14).

But what is the Church exactly? Every Sunday my mom would wake me up and tell me it was time to “get ready for Church.” I would get dressed, eat, and then we would drive to Church.

Is that building we drove to the Church?

Let's Investigate



**Fact:** Jesus promised His followers that He would build His Church and that the foundation of it would rest on the fact that Jesus was the Son of God (Matthew 16.13-19).

**Fact:** Jesus promised to build only **one** Church, not many churches (Matthew 16.18, Ephesians 4.4, 1 Corinthians 12.13, and Colossians 3.15).

**Fact:** There are different congregations scattered across the earth, but they are all a part of the same Church (Romans 12.4-5). Paul wrote letters to the *churches* (congregations) scattered across Galatia (Galatians 1.1-2).

**Fact:** People are the Church, not a building or a place (1 Corinthians 12.12-21).

OK, so the Church is not a building, it is the people, Christ built it, and only those who are baptized are added to it, right? Correct !

So why are there so many different Churches, you know, like Baptist, Methodist, Catholic and all of that?

The answer to that question is difficult for many to accept, but simple to answer. The fact is, people often want something other than what God wants. Their pride gets in the way of a loving relationship with God. Jesus said plainly, "If you love Me, keep My commandments." (John 14.15) If we Love Christ, we will take the time to learn about His Church and worship Him His way.



## Search Your Bible

The apostle Paul paints a good picture in our minds as to what the Church is in the letter to the Ephesians. Look at it with me

The Church is the **Body of Christ**. (Ephesians 1.22-23)

- Not a physical body, but one made up of Christians.
- Salvation can **only** be found through being a part of the body of Christ (Ephesians 1.7, 5.23)

The Church is the **Household of God**. (Ephesians 2.19)

- The saved are a part of God's family (Galatians 6.10).
- We are related by blood, Christ's blood (Romans 8.14-17).
- God has adopted us (Ephesians 1.5), offered us redemption (Eph 1.7), and promised us an eternal home in heaven (Eph 1.10-11)

The Church is the **Temple** of God.

- The temple was the place where God was worshipped, prayers were offered and atonement for sins was offered.
- Today, the Christians who make up the Church are the temple of God. (1 Corinthians 3.16-17)

The Church is the **Kingdom of God**. (Ephesians 5.5)

- Jesus promised Peter that he would hold the keys to the *kingdom* (Matthew 16.18-19).
- Only in Christ's kingdom are we safe from evil. (Colossians 1.13)

### The Church is the:

**Body** of Christ that works in His service, the **family** or household of God who He loves and has paid for in blood, the **temple** of God that is both holy and the dwelling place of His Spirit and the **kingdom** of God, of whom He is Lord, Master, Lawgiver, and Savior.