

## "Church" Versus Ekklesia

People have asked me to help them understand why I say the “church” is not the Ekklesia. There are many reasons, but let me start with the basics. The word “ekklesia” is the Greek word translated as “church” in the majority of the Bible translations. King James forced the use of the word “church” while there were others who thought the better translation would be “assembly”.

The Greek word ekklesia represents so much more than what we think of as a “church”. It means even more than just an “assembly”. I cannot think of one word that does justice to what a Greek or Roman ekklesia really was. It needs to be described in order to understand the difference.

The enemy has perverted the original intent of the Ekklesia. He has created a counterfeit and the “church” as it exists today is a manmade concept. Because we have lived with our definition of what the “church” is for so long, I believe our terminology has to change in order for our mindsets to change. Unfortunately, the “church” world has begun to toss around the word “Ekklesia” without fully understanding what it is. In most cases they are attempting to put new wine into old wineskins and it is not going to work.



What does that word “ekklesia” really mean? It is more than just an assembly. The Greeks introduced the concept of an ekklesia to the world. To solve community issues, often a group of citizens was chosen and given the responsibility of making a decision concerning the issue that needed resolution. Usually these groups were small, but sometimes they were larger and represent the citizenry of the whole city. They were designated as a “legislative body”.

The Romans adopted the word, but they changed its application somewhat. When Rome conquered a land, they sent a group of soldiers into the occupied land as an ekklesia to make the new place look and act like Rome (which did include some Greek culture). Jesus understood this when He used the word ekklesia to represent what He would build. The Greek word for “build” can be translated “to establish” or “to found”.

Obviously, a building we call a “church” is not the Ekklesia. The building Jesus is establishing is not made with human hands. To which some reply, “Well, we just call it that because the people who gather inside the building, are the “church”. I disagree. Going into one of these buildings ever Sunday, or even just an occasional Sunday (or some other day of the week) does not make one a part of the Ekklesia.

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Did you know that Evangelicals who believe in being born-again, only make up about 13% of those who call themselves Christian? Did you know that Pentecostals/Charismatics make up only about 27% of those who call themselves Christians? That means that around 60% of those who claim to be Christian do not understand being born again, or the gifts of the spirit. So, if these statistics are accurate, we can assume that 60% of our “churches” cannot claim to be the Ekklesia, or what Jesus is building.

Just look at a lot of what is being taught and propagated by these organizations and you know they are contrary to what Jesus taught, so therefore cannot be what Jesus is establishing. Even in the evangelical and Pentecostal/charismatic “churches” today, I would say, probably not everyone who attends is born again by the Spirit of the Living God. So, therefore, not everyone who attends that “church” is the Ekklesia.

The majority of “churches” are organizations formed under the secular government. I do not see anywhere in scripture where Jesus would establish anything under man’s government. Scripture tells us that the government of God’s Kingdom is on Jesus’ shoulders, not man’s. So, therefore, just because I congregate with an organizational “church” group does not make me a part of the Ekklesia.

There is more that could be said about what the Ekklesia is not, but let this suffice for now. So, if the Ekklesia is not what we call the “church” today, what is it? It is the legislative body to which Jesus gives power and authority in order to conduct Kingdom business on heaven’s behalf. The purpose of the Ekklesia is not to build “churches”, but to legislate Kingdom business in the earth. The King of this Kingdom places the keys in the hands of the Ekklesia.

***I will give you the keys (authority) of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind [forbid, declare to be improper and unlawful] on earth will have [already] been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose [permit, declare lawful] on earth will have [already] been loosed in heaven.” Matthew 16:19 (AMP)***



Jesus said He was building a legislative body to legislate Kingdom business. That Kingdom business would consist of details such as salvation, baptism, healing, spreading the good news of Jesus’ death and resurrection, but it would also consist

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of wisdom and knowledge, righteousness and justice, and maturity to rule and make decisions in the cultural areas of society as well. Everywhere they went, they would influence and change earth's society with godly, heavenly principles. They would bring heaven to earth.

This legislative body would have so much authority and power that wherever there would be just two or three of them gathered, they would effectuate great change. Power and authority to do what? Destroy the works of the enemy. The Ekklesia that Jesus was setting a foundation for and establishing would legislate Kingdom business and would be the mechanism for making earth look like heaven. Jesus only used this word a few times. He doesn't have to explain it to His disciples. They are fully aware of what the Romans were doing and they understood what Jesus was saying.

The term ekklesia was well known in both Greek and Roman cultures. How much of that do you find happening in "church" services today? Those who are a part of the Ekklesia are who they are 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It is not about where or when we meet together. We can meet together and conduct Kingdom business anywhere, anytime. Where we are does not change who we are.

***And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Matthew 16:18 (ESV)***

Peter had a revelation of Jesus being the Son of God. Jesus tells Peter, you are a little rock (that is what the name Peter means) who has been given divine revelation. Jesus says on the revelation of who Jesus is, Jesus is going to build something larger which He calls His Ekklesia. Jesus was telling Peter I am going to take you, a little stone, along with a bunch of other little stones who understand who I am, and I am going to build something great from them that hell will not be able to stop. That thing that He is building is one thing, one building, but it is not built with human hands.



Peter was an Ekklesia building block. We become a building block in the Ekklesia when we are saved. We are saved when our spirit comes alive to the revelation that we are sinful creatures and we see and understand Jesus as the one who paid the price for our sins.

***praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:47(MEV)***

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The Lord added those who were being saved daily to the Church or the Ekklesia. My first book, *The Mountain Belongs to the Remnant (Overcomers Advance the Kingdom of God)*, details much about being an overcomer. The process of becoming an effective overcomer is much like the process we go through as a building block in the Ekklesia. We are born again as overcomers, but like learning to walk and talk, we must learn how to be effective as overcomers.

As a human being we go through a process of learning and becoming everything we were meant to be. We learn to walk. We learn to talk. We mature and at a certain age we should be able to take on the responsibilities of an adult. These responsibilities are ones that could not be given to a child. So, even though we were born a human, it is a series of processes we go through over time to become thoroughly capable as a human to do certain things.

It is the same with being an overcomer. We are born into the Kingdom of God with the capabilities to be an overcomer, but we must go through some processes in order to become proficient at being an overcomer.

The same is true of the Ekklesia. When we are born again, we become a building block in the Ekklesia, but we must allow the Builder (Jesus) to shape us, and polish us to His liking, so we can be effectively put into the wall of the building Jesus is constructing. We must allow Him to take us through processes that mature us, just like we do as a human. In the natural world we progress from baby to toddler, to child, to teenager, to adult. In the Ekklesia world we progress from saint to disciple (student) to mature building block placed in the Ekklesia building of God.



I believe this was what Paul was referring to in chapter 3 of I Corinthians. He tells them that he cannot feed them meat, because they were only able to digest milk. They were not yet mature. We must become mature in the things of God in order to be linked together in the overall Ekklesia that Jesus is building. Maturity means putting away carnality and becoming spiritual. It means allowing Jesus to be King in every area of our life.

So, mostly, when I write about the Ekklesia, it is the mature Ekklesia that I see. It is only as Jesus takes each building block of the Ekklesia and places it where it was designed to be, can we experience unity and submission. That only happens with building blocks that have allowed their Lord to mold them and shape them according to His plan for their life. It is this view of the Ekklesia that effectively advances the Kingdom of God in the earth. It is this Ekklesia that destroys the works of the enemy wherever they are found.

In most "churches" we find a mixture. There are those who are not saved. There are those who are building blocks who still individually operate and demand their own

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ways of doing things, who operate from their carnal nature. There may be a few who have matured to the point of being placed in the wall of the Ekklesia that Jesus is building. However, true unity and submission cannot happen where individual Ekklesia building blocks are still demanding their own way.

This is not to say, that an individual building block of the Ekklesia cannot experience power and authority in their individual lives, because we can. The disciples, who were still students, used authority and power to heal and cast out devils. But I am talking about a whole new level of power and authority that we have not experienced before that comes with a unity and submission to one another that we have not known.

I see it clearly by the Spirit of God, and I believe with every ounce of strength in me, it will come to pass. It will be nothing like what we call "church" today. There will be no doubt when you look at it, that God is all over it. The glory will be out of this world, literally! The Ekklesia will be skilled in destroying the works of the enemy. It will know how to skillfully legislate Kingdom business in the earth. It will know how to apply heaven's principles to make earth look like heaven.

How do we get there? We must take seriously the fact that we are a building block and we must mature in the things of God. We must understand that maturity is not about how much we know the Bible, or how active in "church" life we are, or how many good deeds we do. It has to do with how much you know and desire the heart of God, how much you hear His voice and obey and how much you have shed the carnal life to live the spiritual life God has for you. The word used in the Bible for the process of maturing is "being perfected" or "made complete".

***Therefore let us go on and get past the elementary stage in the teachings and doctrine of Christ (the Messiah), advancing steadily toward the completeness and perfection that belong to spiritual maturity. Let us not again be laying the foundation of repentance and abandonment of dead works (dead formalism) and of the faith [by which you turned] to God, With teachings about purifying, the laying on of hands, the resurrection from the dead, and eternal judgment and punishment. [These are all matters of which you should have been fully aware long, long ago.]***  
**Hebrews 6:1-2**  
**(AMPC)**

May we all make the decision to move on from just being a building block of the Ekklesia to being cemented into the wall of the Ekklesia that Jesus is building. May the Lord grant us wisdom and understanding in what He is doing in the earth and what He desires to do through us! May the revelation of the FULLNESS of our Lord be increased in each one of us so His strength operates through us to destroy the works of the enemy. Amen.

