




- Words change meanings as time passes



DICTIONARY.COM **church** [church] SHOW IPA 

[See synonyms for church on Thesaurus.com](#)

noun

- 1 a building for public Christian worship.
- 2 public worship of God or a religious service in such a building:
to attend church regularly.
- 3 *(sometimes initial capital letter)* the whole body of Christian believers; Christendom.
- 4 *(sometimes initial capital letter)* any division of this body professing the same creed and acknowledging the same ecclesiastical authority; a Christian denomination:
the Methodist Church.
- 5 that part of the whole Christian body, or of a particular denomination, belonging to the same city, country, nation, etc.
- 6 a body of Christians worshipping in a particular building or constituting one congregation:
She is a member of this church.
- 7 ecclesiastical organization, power, and affairs, as distinguished from the state:
separation of church and state; The missionary went wherever the church sent him.
- 8 the clergy and religious officials of a Christian denomination.
- 9 the Christian faith:
a return of intellectuals to the church.
- 10 *(initial capital letter)* the Christian Church before the Reformation.
- 11 *(initial capital letter)* the Roman Catholic Church.
- 12 the clerical profession or calling:
After much study and contemplation, he was prepared to enter the church.
- 13 a place of public worship of a non-Christian religion.
- 14 any non-Christian religious society, organization, or congregation:
the Jewish church.

- Church
 - a building for public Christians worship.
 - public worship of God or a religious service in such a building
 - the whole body of Christian believers; Christendom
 - any division of this body professing the same creed and acknowledging the same ecclesiastical authority; a Christian denomination
 - that part of the whole Christian body, or of a particular denomination, belonging to the same city, country, nation, etc.
 - a body of Christians worshipping in a particular building or constituting one congregational

DICTIONARY.COM **church** [church] SHOW IPA  

[See synonyms for church on Thesaurus.com](#)

noun

- 1 a building for public Christian worship.
- 2 public worship of God or a religious service in such a building:
to attend church regularly.
- 3 *(sometimes initial capital letter)* the whole body of Christian believers; Christendom.
- 4 *(sometimes initial capital letter)* any division of this body professing the same creed and acknowledging the same ecclesiastical authority; a Christian denomination:
the Methodist Church.
- 5 that part of the whole Christian body, or of a particular denomination, belonging to the same city, country, nation, etc.
- 6 a body of Christians worshipping in a particular building or constituting one congregation:
She is a member of this church.
- 7 ecclesiastical organization, power, and affairs, as distinguished from the state:
separation of church and state; The missionary went wherever the church sent him.
- 8 the clergy and religious officials of a Christian denomination.
- 9 the Christian faith:
a return of intellectuals to the church.
- 10 *(initial capital letter)* the Christian Church before the Reformation.
- 11 *(initial capital letter)* the Roman Catholic Church.
- 12 the clerical profession or calling:
After much study and contemplation, he was prepared to enter the church.
- 13 a place of public worship of a non-Christian religion.
- 14 any non-Christian religious society, organization, or congregation:
the Jewish church.

- What did Jesus and the Apostles mean when they used the word “church”?

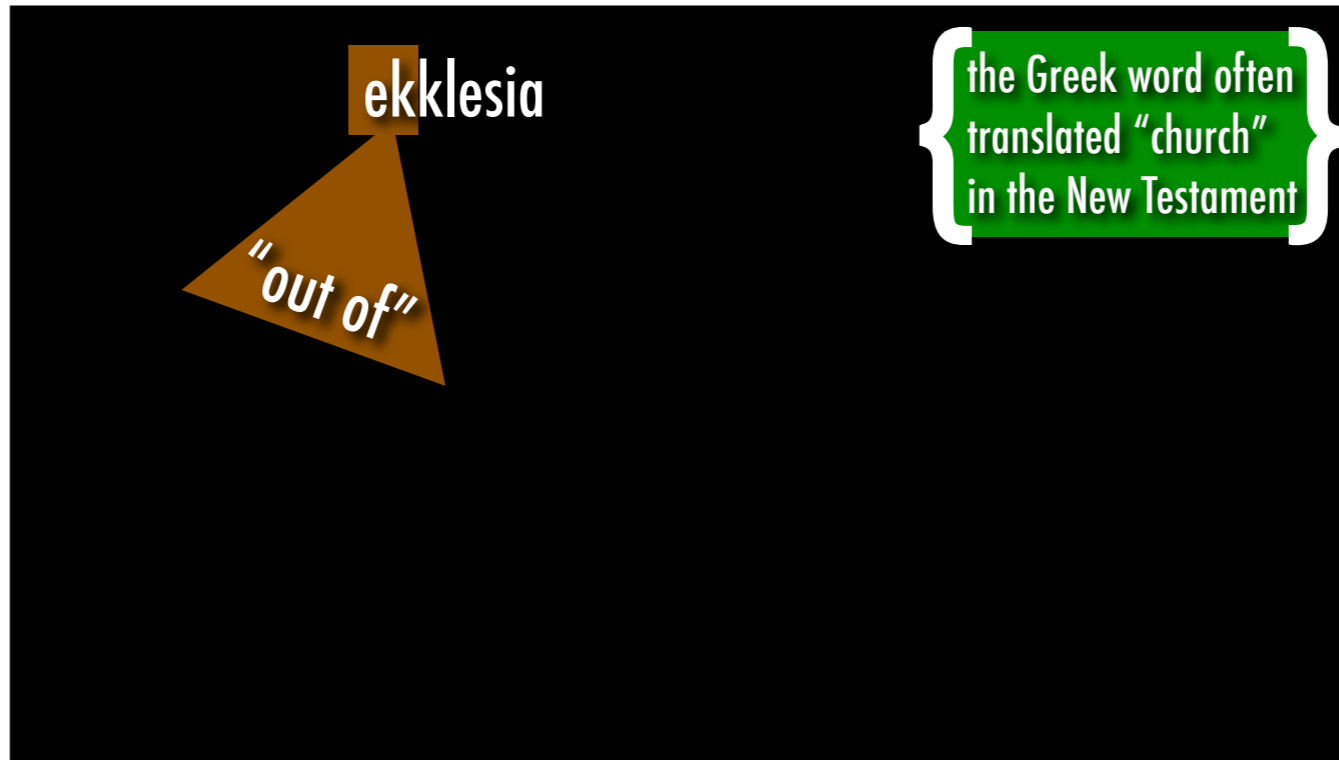
ekklesia

• ekklesia

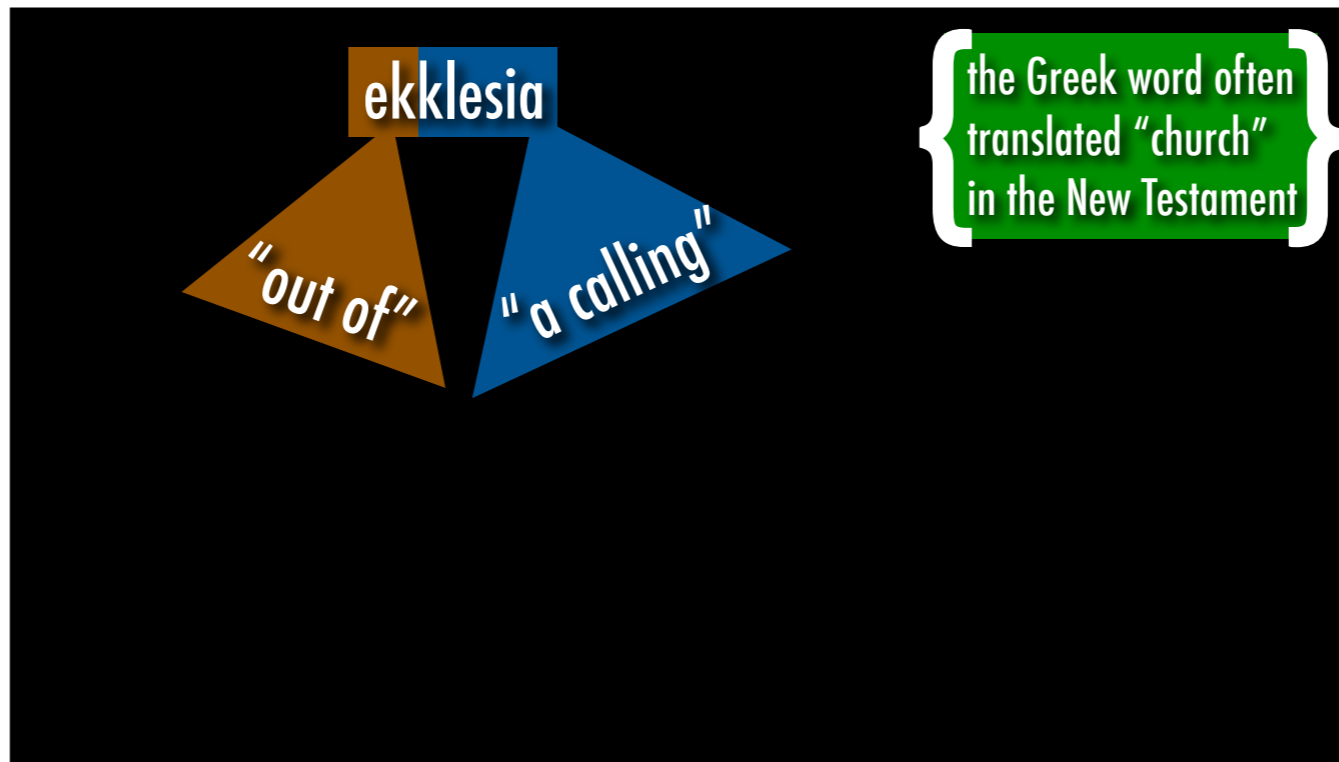
ekklesia

the Greek word often
translated "church"
in the New Testament

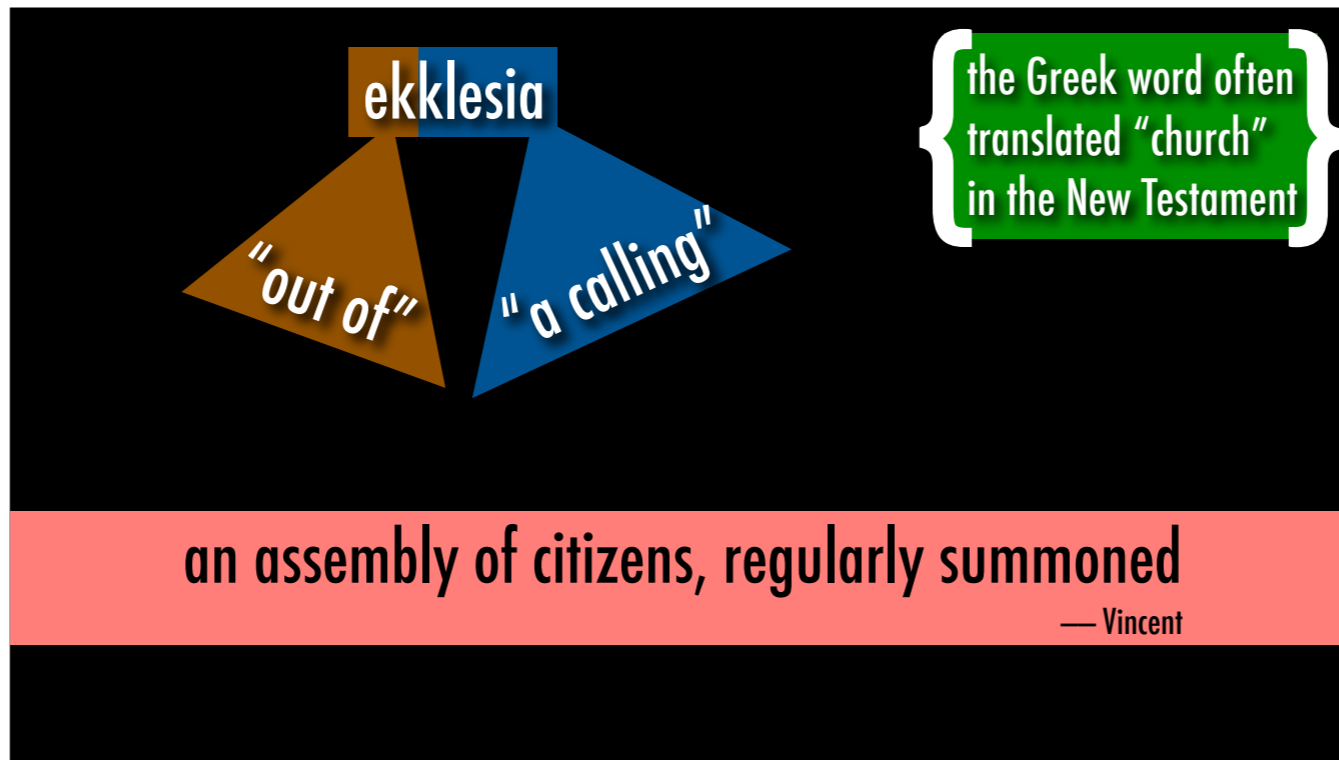
- ekklesia
 - commonly translated "church" in the NT



- ekklesia (ek=out of; klesis, a calling)



- ekklesia (ek=out of; klesis, a calling)



- Greek Origin
 - Vincent: “an assembly of citizens, regularly summoned”

The diagram features the word "ekklesia" at the top, with "ek" in a brown box and "klesia" in a blue box. Below it are two triangles: a brown one pointing left with the text "out of" and a blue one pointing right with the text "a calling". To the right is a green box with a white border containing the text "the Greek word often translated 'church' in the New Testament". At the bottom, a red banner contains the text "a gathering of citizens called out from their homes into some public places; an assembly" followed by "— Thayer" in a smaller font.

ekklesia

"out of"

"a calling"

the Greek word often translated "church" in the New Testament

a gathering of citizens called out from their homes into some public places; an assembly
— Thayer

- Thayer:

- properly: "a gathering of citizens called out from their homes into some public places; an assembly"
- "an assembly of the people convened at that public place of council for the purpose of deliberating"

The diagram features a central black area with the word "ekklesia" in a blue box at the top. Below it are two triangles: a brown one on the left labeled "out of" and a blue one on the right labeled "a calling". Below these triangles is the text "an assembly of Roman citizens". To the right, a green box with a white border contains the text "the Greek word often translated 'church' in the New Testament". A white arrow points from the word "ekklesia" to the green box. Below the black area is a red horizontal band containing the text "But if you seek anything further, it shall be settled in the regular assembly." with a white arrow pointing to the word "assembly". At the bottom right of the red band is the text "— Acts 19:39".

ekklesia

"out of"

"a calling"

an assembly of Roman citizens

the Greek word often translated "church" in the New Testament

But if you seek anything further, it shall be settled in the regular assembly.

— Acts 19:39

- Acts 19:39: But if you seek anything further, it shall be settled in the regular assembly.
 - Riot: Acts 19:32, 41
 - Thayer: "any gathering or throng of men assembled by chance or tumultuously."

The diagram features the word "ekklesia" in a blue box at the top center. Below it are two triangles: a brown one on the left containing the text "out of" and a blue one on the right containing "a calling". A white arrow points from the word "ekklesia" down to the text "the gathering of Israel" in the black section below. To the right, a green box with white text reads "the Greek word often translated 'church' in the New Testament".

ekklesia

"out of" "a calling"

the Greek word often translated "church" in the New Testament

the gathering of Israel

This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the angel who spoke to him at Mount Sinai, and with our fathers. He received living oracles to give to us.

— Acts 7:38

- Septuagint

- The gathering of Israel for any definite purpose (Vine)
- The congregation of Israel (Vincent)
- A gathering regarded as representative of the whole nation (Vine)
- The community of Israel collectively (Vincent)
- Acts 7:38 — This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the angel who spoke to him at Mount Sinai, and with our fathers. He received living oracles to give to us.

The diagram features a central black triangle with the word "ekklesia" written in white at the top. Two smaller triangles, one brown and one blue, are positioned below it. The brown triangle contains the text "out of" and the blue triangle contains "a calling". A white curved arrow originates from the word "ekklesia" and points down to the text "the whole body of Christians". To the right of the diagram is a green box with white text: "the Greek word often translated 'church' in the New Testament". Below the diagram is a red banner with the text: "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." followed by "— Matthew 16:18".

ekklesia

"out of" "a calling"

the whole body of Christians

the Greek word often translated "church" in the New Testament

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

- Christ and Apostles
 - Thayer: a company of Christians
- The Universal Church (General)
 - Thayer: "the whole body of Christians scattered throughout the earth; collectively, all who worship and honor God and Christ in whatever place they may be ... the name transferred to the assembly of faithful Christians already dead and received into heaven."

The diagram features a central black triangle with the word "ekklesia" written in white at the top. Two smaller triangles, one brown and one blue, are positioned below it, containing the phrases "out of" and "a calling" respectively. A white curved arrow points from the word "ekklesia" down to the text "the whole body of Christians". To the right, a green box with white text states "the Greek word often translated 'church' in the New Testament". Below the diagram, a red banner contains the text "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." followed by "— Matthew 16:18".

ekklesia

"out of"

"a calling"

the Greek word often translated "church" in the New Testament

the whole body of Christians

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

- Vine: "the whole company of the redeemed throughout the present era"
- Scriptural examples
 - Mt. 16:18: my church
 - Ep. 1:22-23: Christ is head
 - Ep. 4.4: one body
 - Ep. 5.23,24: Christ is head

The diagram features the word "ekklesia" in a blue box at the top center. Below it are two triangles: a brown one on the left labeled "out of" and a blue one on the right labeled "a calling". A white curved arrow points from the word "ekklesia" down to the text "the whole body of Christians". To the right, a green box contains the text "the Greek word often translated 'church' in the New Testament". Below this, the text "the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood" is followed by "— Acts 20:28". At the bottom, a red banner contains the text "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." followed by "— Matthew 16:18".

ekklesia

"out of"

"a calling"

the whole body of Christians

the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood
— Acts 20:28

the Greek word often translated "church" in the New Testament

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

- Christ's church (church of Christ, church belonging to Christ)

- purchased

- Acts 20:28 — — Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

The diagram features the word "ekklesia" in a blue box at the top center. A white arrow curves from the "k" of "ekklesia" down to the word "church" in the Matthew 16:18 quote below. To the left of "ekklesia" is a brown triangle containing the text "out of". To the right is a blue triangle containing the text "a calling". Below these triangles is the text "the whole body of Christians". To the right of the triangles is a green box with a white border containing the text "the Greek word often translated 'church' in the New Testament". Below the green box is the quote "him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." followed by "— 1 Peter 2:9". At the bottom of the diagram is a red box containing the quote "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." followed by "— Matthew 16:18".

ekklesia

the Greek word often translated "church" in the New Testament

"out of" "a calling"

the whole body of Christians

him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. — 1 Peter 2:9

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

- called out
 - 1 Peter 2:9-10 (ESV) 9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

The diagram features the word "ekklesia" in a blue box at the top center. Below it are two triangles: a brown one on the left containing the text "out of" and a blue one on the right containing "a calling". A white curved arrow starts from the "ekklesia" box and points down to the text "the whole body of Christians" below the brown triangle. To the right of the triangles is a green box with white text: "the Greek word often translated 'church' in the New Testament". Below this green box is the text "To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." followed by "— 2 Thessalonians 2:14". At the bottom of the diagram is a red box containing the text "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." followed by "— Matthew 16:18".

ekklesia

"out of"

"a calling"

the whole body of Christians

the Greek word often translated "church" in the New Testament

To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
— 2 Thessalonians 2:14

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

- 2 Thessalonians 2:14 To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The diagram features a black background with a red horizontal band at the bottom. At the top center, the word "ekklesia" is written in white. Below it, two triangles point towards the word: a brown one on the left containing the text "out of" and a blue one on the right containing "a calling". To the right of these triangles, the text "a local assembly of believers" is written in white. A white arrow curves from the word "ekklesia" down to the word "church" in the red band. In the top right corner, a green box with a white border contains the text "the Greek word often translated 'church' in the New Testament".

ekklesia

"out of"

"a calling"

a local assembly of believers

the Greek word often translated "church" in the New Testament

If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

— Matthew 18:17

- Thayer: a company of Christians
- The local church (specific)
 - Thayer: "those who anywhere, in city or village, constitute such a company and are united into one body"
 - Vine: a company consisting of professed believers

The diagram features a black background with a red horizontal band at the bottom. At the top center, the word "ekklesia" is written in white. Below it, two triangles point towards the word: a brown one on the left containing the text "out of" and a blue one on the right containing "a calling". To the right of these triangles, the text "a local assembly of believers" is written in white. A white arrow points from the word "ekklesia" to a green box on the right containing the text "the Greek word often translated 'church' in the New Testament". Another white arrow points from the word "church" in the green box to the word "church" in the red band below. The red band contains the text "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector." in black. At the bottom right of the red band, the text "— Matthew 18:17" is written in black.

ekklesia

"out of"

"a calling"

a local assembly of believers

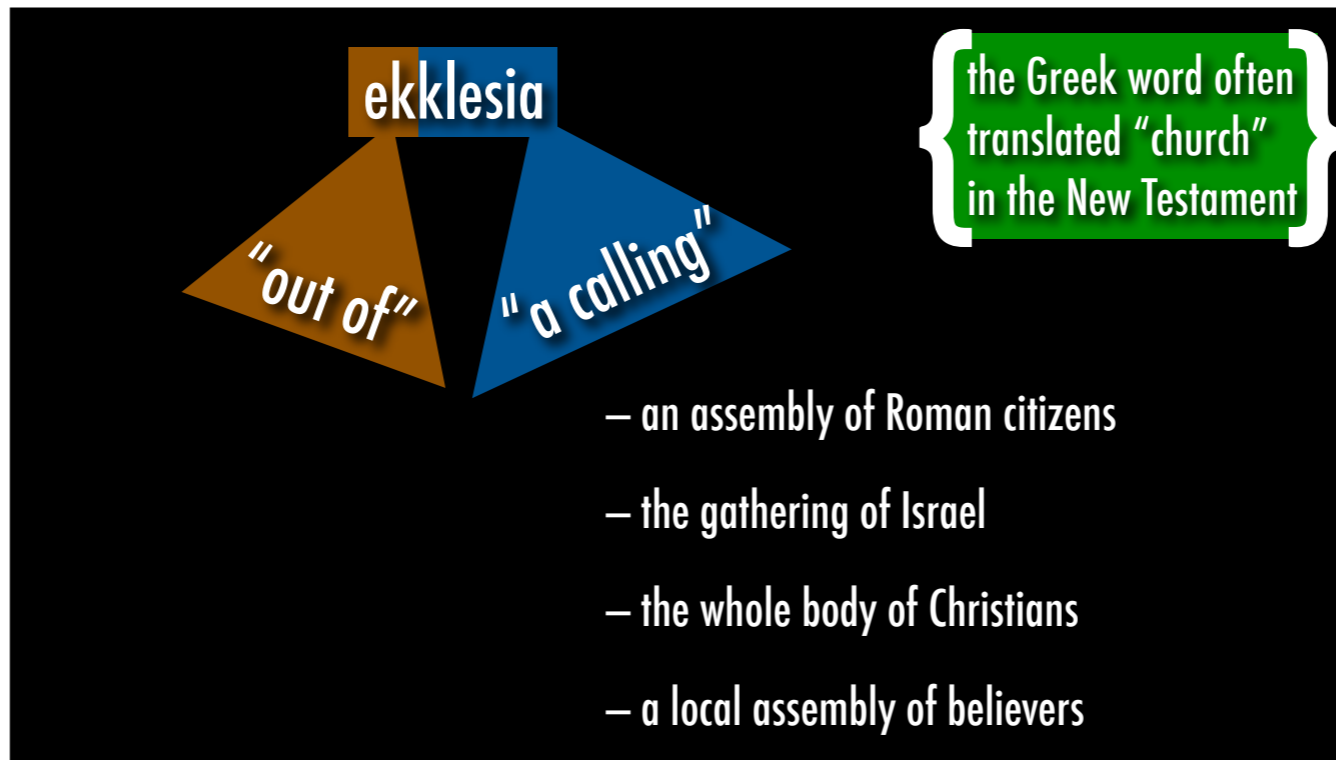
the Greek word often translated "church" in the New Testament

If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

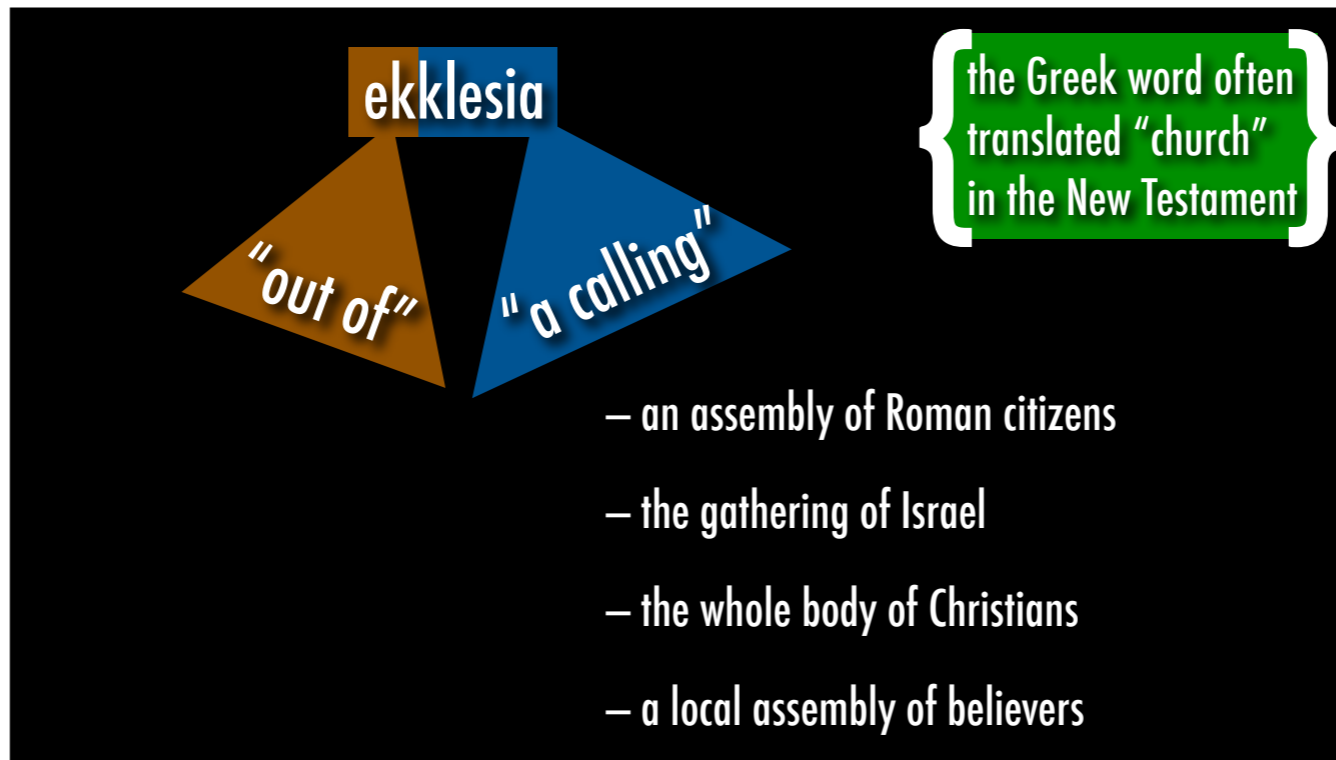
— Matthew 18:17

• Examples

- Mt. 18:17: tell it to the church
- Ac. 8:1: church which was in Jerusalem
- Ac. 11:22: church which was in Jerusalem
- Ac. 14:23: elders in every church
- 1 Cor. 4:17: teach everywhere in every church



- Church is used of
 - an assembly of Roman citizens
 - gathering of Israel
 - whole body of Christians
 - local assembly of believers



- Man's False Concepts of the Church

- Primarily on the building
- A denomination
 - Webster: a religious organization uniting into a single legal and administrative body a number of local congregations
 - John 15:1-7: Vine and branches
 - individuals or groups?

The Church of Christ

Organization

Jesus is head (Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:22; 5:23; Colossians 1:18)

Local church:

Christ (Philippians 1:1)

Elders (Acts 20:17, 28; Titus 1:5-7; 1 Peter 5:1-2)

Deacons (Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:8-13)

Saints (Philippians 1:1)

- Organization of Christ's Church
 - Christ is head: "My church"
 - Eph. 1.22
 - Eph. 5.23
 - Col. 1.18
 - Local church (only)
 - Christ (Phil. 1.1)
 - Elders (bishops, pastors): Acts 20.17, 28; Titus 1.5-7; 1 Peter 5.1-2 (plural: Acts 14.23; Titus 1.5; Jam. 5.14)
 - Deacons
 - Saints

The Church of Christ

Work

Evangelism (1 Timothy 3:14-15; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; Acts 13:1-3;
Philippians 4:15-16; 2 Corinthians 11:8)

- Work of the Church
 - Evangelism
 - (Supporting a preacher ... too often)
 - 1 Tim. 3.14-15: pillar and ground of the truth
 - Examples:
 - 1 Thess. 1.8
 - Acts 13.1-3
 - Support of preachers
 - Phil. 4.15-16; 2 Cor. 11.8
 - not sponsoring church or missionary societies, etc.

The Church of Christ

Work

Evangelism (1 Timothy 3:14-15; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; Acts 13:1-3;
Philippians 4:15-16; 2 Corinthians 11:8)

Edification (Ephesians 4:12-16; Hebrews 10:25; 1 Corinthians 14:26)

- edification (corporate worship)
 - Eph. 4.12-16 - building up
 - Hebrews 10:25 - assemblies
 - 1 Cor. 14.26: singing, prayer, teaching, communion, giving, discipline

The Church of Christ

Work

Evangelism (1 Timothy 3:14-15; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; Acts 13:1-3; Philippians 4:15-16; 2 Corinthians 11:8)

Edification (Ephesians 4:12-16; Hebrews 10:25; 1 Corinthians 14:26)

Benevolence (Acts 6:1-6; 1 Timothy 5:3-16; Acts 2:45; 4:32-35; 11:27-30; Romans 15:25-6; 1 Corinthians 16:1-3; 2 Corinthians 8-9)

- benevolence
 - limited to saints in need
 - Local: Acts 6:1-6; 1 Tim. 5:3-16; Acts 2:45; 4:32-35
 - Interaction between local churches: Ac. 11:27-30; Rom. 15:25-26; 1 Cor. 16:1-3; 2 Cor. 8-9 (8:4; 9:1, 12)

The Church of Christ



- Wait a minute ...
 - How often have you heard lessons like this one?
- What's missing?
 - We start out talking about people
 - Suddenly seem to stop talking about people ...
 - focus on an organization.

The Church of Christ

People!

- The church is made up of people
 - It's not a business organization.
 - People who have a relationship with Christ (next lesson)
 - People who have a relationship with each other because of this.

The Church of Christ

People!

- Not that what has been mentioned is wrong or unimportant
 - Some of these have been so emphasized that we easily forget that the church is made up of people
 - church is primarily conceived as some type of institution
 - (That exists apart from the people, in some sense)

The Church of Christ

People!

- Need to have clearly developed concepts
 - about the church
 - the church is people

The Church of Christ

People!

So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

— Acts 2:41

- Clear from considering the earliest saints
- Acts 2:41 — So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

The Church of Christ

People!

So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

— Acts 2:41

- Acts 2:42-47 (ESV)
 - 42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship,
 - to the breaking of bread and
 - the prayers.
 - 43 And awe came upon every soul,
 - and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.
 - 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common.
 - 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and
 - distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.
 - 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and
 - breaking bread in their homes,
 - they received their food with glad and generous hearts,
 - 47 praising God and having favor with all the people.
 - And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.
- They:
 - learned the truth together
 - spent time with each other
 - worshipped together
 - shared
 - taught others

The Church of Christ

People!

So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

— Acts 2:41

- They:
 - learned the truth together
 - spent time with each other: homes and temple
 - worshipped together
 - shared with each other
 - taught others

Where do we find community today?

- Searching for Community in Today's World
 - Bars; Wineries
 - Sports Teams
 - Social networks

Where do we find community today?

- Why do so many not look to a church?
 - often churches don't seem concerned about people
 - only want good people
 - focus on dogma
 - sense of freedom to "be one's self" in bars

Where do we find community today?

- Our church needs to become a place for people
 - Challenge us to grow deep relationships with one another
 - Others observe our care and unity they might be attracted to the gospel
 - What will you do?
 - Commit yourself to working together to develop true relationships?
 - Seek to be on your own?
 - Focus only on doctrine?

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

Photo Credits:

All photos from istockphoto.com, crestock.com, bigstock.com, dreamtime.com, thinkstock.com, and shutterstock.com are copyright protected. They are used by permission. Please do not reuse without permission.)

One Another

#02

Compiled and Presented by:
Dave Stewart
2021 July 25
www.1corinthians1614.com

The Church of Christ

Acts 2:41-47

Synopsis: The church is people. Sometimes we get so caught up in various aspects of understanding the church, that we forget. This is just a reminder.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

“Let all that you do be done with love.”