

We believe that Jesus Christ established His church during His ministry on earth and that it is always a local, visible assembly of scripturally baptized believers in covenant relationship to carry out the Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ, and each church is an independent, self-governing body, and no other ecclesiastical body may exercise authority over it. We believe that Jesus Christ gave the Great Commission to the New Testament churches only, and that He promised the perpetuity of His churches. (Matthew 4:18-22; 16:18; 28:19-20; Mark 1:14-20; John 1:35-51; Ephesians 3:21)

**JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF \_\_\_\_\_ HIS NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH DURING HIS PERSONAL MINISTRY ON EARTH.**

- The church is a “called out” \_\_\_\_\_ of baptized believers, who are covenanting together for the purpose of carrying out or obeying the Lord’s commission. (Matthew 16:18, Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 1:14-20, John 1:35-51, Acts 1:8, Ephesians 3:21)
- Every church is an \_\_\_\_\_, self governing body, and no other ecclesiastical body may exercise authority over it.

**I. CHRIST IS \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE CHURCH**

The Head of the church called out His first \_\_\_\_\_ of the church age. (Ephesians 5:23-25)

The beginning of Jesus ministry, and He called out His church after He was baptized by John the Baptist. (Malachi 3:1; John 3:30)

The \_\_\_\_\_ for the church. (John 1:29)

**II. THE MEANING OF THE WORD CHURCH**

The word “church” is a translation of a Greek word “ekklesia” and is frequently used of any \_\_\_\_\_ or congregation of people. It actually means “called out ones.” (Act 20:28)

Jesus Himself called out His first \_\_\_\_\_. (Matthew 4:18-22; John 1:29)

**III. THE MEANING AND \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE CHURCH**

The Lord’s Churches still functions through local and individual assemblies as they carry out His Great Commission. (Matt. 18:19-20)



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# The Local New Testament Church

Taught by Glenn Griffith

## IV. \_\_\_\_\_ IN THE CHURCH

Groups and organizations can enhance the outreach of the church, but should never be allowed to replace local church authority and the \_\_\_\_\_ given by Jesus.

The doctrines of Christ \_\_\_\_\_ change. (*Hebrews 13:8*)

Each body of Christ functioned \_\_\_\_\_ and independently from each other, but had Christ as their head and founder.

Each had the \_\_\_\_\_ to carry out the commission that Jesus gave to the young church in *Matthew 28:18-20* & *Acts 1:8*

## V. THE CHURCH IS TO BE \_\_\_\_\_

Until the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ . (*Matthew 28:18-20*)

The call to \_\_\_\_\_ together in church capacity is still the same, and just as important as ever; actually more important... "so much the more as you see the day approaching..." (*Heb 10:24-25*)

Church membership holds us all \_\_\_\_\_ to one another and to God.

## VI. THE CHURCH IS FOR THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF GOD

(*Ephesians 3:21; 1 Timothy 4:1-2*)

## LIFE APPLICATION

*Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus...*

*Ephesians 3:21*

About 38 years ago, my friend and I lived in a trailer park across the street from a local New Testament church. All I knew at that time was that it was a Baptist church, it was local, it was new, and it was a church. I never attended there. Apparently, the youth minister decided it would be good to practice what they preached, so they picked a Saturday morning to encourage the youth to go door to door and hand out some tracts. One of the trailer houses they visited was where I was staying. After responding to a knock on my door, I found myself in a staring contest with a 13-year-old boy. He was scared half to death, and I was half asleep. Seeing the empty beer cans scattered all over my coffee table probably didn't help to build the boy's confidence. The staring contest was finally broken when he got up the nerve to hand me the gospel tract. All I remember is that he stood on the porch, said maybe five words at the most, and pointed toward the church building. I never uttered a word, nor did I smile, cough, grunt, say thank you, or do anything. I just stood there with a tract in my hand, wondering what just happened? As quick as there was a knock on my door, the boy was gone. Thirty-eight years later, I still remember that day. Through one of his local New Testament churches, God used a scared, zit-faced, teenager to speak to my heart.

*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations...*

*Matthew 28: 19-20*

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Print up some brochures advertising your church, grab a handful of gospel tracts, take along a friend, and try door-knocking one time. JUST ONE TIME! Get out of your comfort zone and hand out some tracts in a neighborhood near your church. *GO ye therefore...*