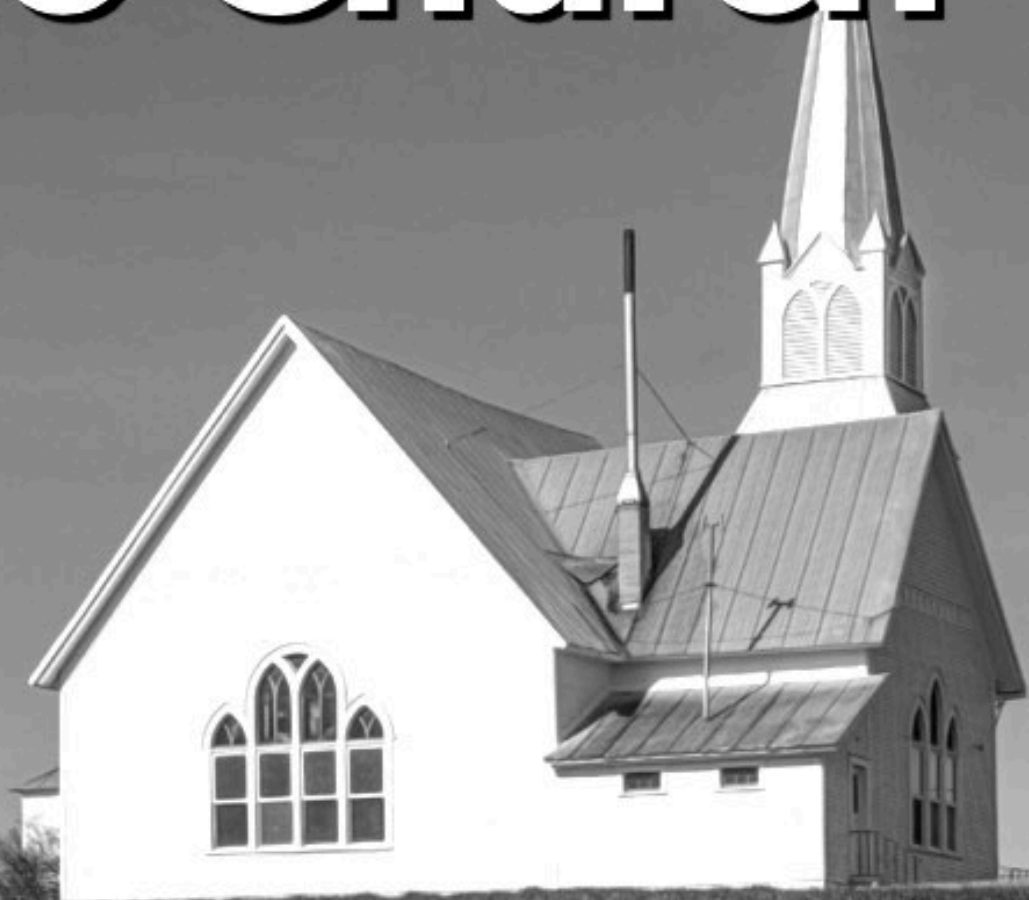


The Church



**What it is, How it works,
and Why it's important**



The Lakes
CHURCH

Ecclesiology

The Doctrine of the Church

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I. Church Defined

A. Ekklēsia

B. Various forms

1. House church
 - a) 1 Corinthians 16:19

2. City church
 - a) Acts 8:1

3. Province church
 - a) Acts 9:31

4. "Whole" church
 - a) Acts 15:22

5. Invisible/universal church
 - a) Ephesians 1:22

C. Defined

1. Group of believers
2. Committed to Jesus Christ
3. Committed to each other
4. Working together
 - a) To glorify God
 - b) To fulfill the mission
 - (1) To Know Jesus Christ
 - (2) To Make Jesus Christ Known

II. Church's Attributes

A. Unity

1. Spiritual Unity
 - a) Ephesians 4:3
2. Societal Unity
 - a) Galatians 3:27-28

3. Detailed Unity
 - a) Ephesians 4:4-6

B. Holiness

1. Sanctification
 - a) God indwells us
 - (1) Corporately
 - (a) 1 Corinthians 3:17
 - (2) Individually
 - (a) 1 Corinthians 6:19
 - b) We are being set apart by the Holy Spirit to live transformed
 - (1) We were sanctified the moment I believed in Christ and was justified
 - (a) 1 Corinthians 6:11
 - (2) We are being sanctified, transformed to be like Christ
 - (a) 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

- (b) John 17:17
 - (c) 2 Thessalonians 2:13
 - (3) We will be sanctified when Jesus comes back
 - (a) Ephesians 5:27
 - (b) 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24
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C. Catholic

- 1. Not confined to any one location
 - a) Old Testament
 - (1) Abraham's seed a blessing to all the families of the earth
 - (a) Genesis 12:3
 - (2) Abraham's seed a blessing to the nations of the earth
 - (a) Genesis 22:18
 - (3) Messiah ministering to all nations
 - (a) Isaiah 42:1-9
 - b) New Testament

(1) Jesus' commission to make disciples of all nations

(a) Matthew 28:19

D. Apostolic

1. Not referring to any apostolic succession
2. Based on apostles' teaching
 - a) 1 Corinthians 15:3-4
 - b) Nothing else but apostles' teaching
 - (1) Galatians 1:8-9
 - c) Bound to teach that according to the word
 - (1) 2 Timothy 4:1-3

III. Church's Members

A. Believers

1. Members of Christ's Body
 - a) Romans 12:4-5

IV. Church Government—How the Church is Organized

A. New Testament References

1. Acts 1:15-26

- a) Twelve apostles

2. Acts 9:1-9, 26-28

- a) Paul meets qualifications for apostle

3. Acts 6:1-7

- a) Selection of deacons

- (1) Tending to problem of daily ministry to widows

4. 1 Timothy 3:1-7

- a) Qualifications of bishop/overseer/pastor

- (1) *Episkopos*

5. 1 Timothy 3:8-13

- a) Qualifications of deacon

6. Elders

- a) *Presbuteros*
- b) Acts 11:30; 14:23; 15; 16:4; 20:17; 21:18
- c) 1 Timothy 5:17-19
- d) Titus 1:5
 - (1) Elders were to be appointed by Titus
- e) James 5:14
 - (1) Elders pray over sick
 - (2) Anointing with oil in name of the Lord
- f) 1 Peter 5:1-4
 - (1) Written to **elders**
 - (2) Peter also an elder
 - (3) **Shepherding** the flock
 - (a) Shepherd
 - i) *Poimainō*

- (1) Word for **“pastor”**
- (b) Serving as an **overseer**
 - i) *Episkopeō*
- (c) Not by compulsion but willingly
- (d) Not as overlords but leading by example
- g) Ephesians 4:11-16
 - (1) People given to church by Christ
 - (2) Purpose
 - (a) Equip the saints
 - i) For the work of service

B. Catholic

- 1. Global hierarchy
- 2. Pope
 - a) Bishop of Rome
 - (1) Simon Peter considered first Pope

- (a) Matthew 16:18-19
 - (2) Apostolic succession
 - 3. Sacerdotalism
 - a) Pope communicates power to forgive sins to bishops
 - 4. Bishops
 - 5. Priests
 - 6. Deacons
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C. Episcopal

- 1. Bishops
 - a) Archbishops, metropolitans, patriarchs
 - b) Bishops
 - 2. Synods—church governing councils
 - 3. Non-clerical governing councils
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D. Presbyterian

- 1. Hierarchy of councils

- a) Session/Consistory
 - (1) Local church elders
 - (a) Elected by congregation
 - (2) Presided over by teaching elder/church minister
- b) Presbytery/classis
 - (1) Elders sent from each session
- c) General assembly/synod
 - (1) Representatives from each presbytery

E. Congregational

1. Church congregation rules itself, elects leaders
2. Led by pastor, staff, elders
3. Congregation has final authority

V. Church's Identifying Marks

A. Body of Christ

1. Christ the Head

- a) Source of church's spiritual life
 - (1) Colossians 1:18
 - b) Church's ultimate Authority
 - (1) Colossians 2:19
2. Members of the body
- a) 1 Corinthians 12:14-27
 - b) Romans 12:4-5
3. Church grows as a body
- a) Ephesians 4:15-16

B. Bride of Christ

- 1. Ephesians 5:23-25
- 2. 2 Corinthians 11:2-3
- 3. Revelation 19:6-8

C. Temple of Holy Spirit

- 1. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

D. New Humanity

1. Ephesians 2:13-16

E. Family of God

1. 1 John 3:1
2. Galatians 4:4-5

F. People of God

1. Hebrews 8:10
2. John 10:14-18
3. Revelation 21:3

VI. Church's Mission and Work

A. Mission

1. Know Christ
2. Make Christ Known

B. Work

1. Disciple-making
 - a) Evangelism

b) Worship

(1) Private

(2) Corporate

c) Ministry