

The Visible and Invisible Church
 (The Organization of The Church Series - #1)
September 9, 2007

Review

Our 2007 Theme is "Here Is The Church"
 Our first series was "The Cause We Plead"
 Our second series was "How To Become A Member Of The Church"
 Our third series was "The Purpose Of The Church"

Introduction to the series...

Every group (more than one person) needs some structure.
 Man-made organizations have many different structures.
 Religious groups have different structures.
 What does the NT teach about the structure of the Lord's Church?

The NT speaks of "church" in two ways:

1. The church _____.

*Matt. 16:18 I will build My church,
 and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*
Eph. 5:23 Christ is the head of the church, his body...
Eph. 5:25 Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

2. The church _____.

(the church) in a city	<i>Acts 8:1</i>	<i>Jerusalem</i>
	<i>1 Cor. 1:1</i>	<i>Corinth</i>
	<i>Rev. 3:14</i>	<i>Laodicea</i>
(churches) in an area or region	<i>Gal. 1:2</i>	<i>Galatia</i>
	<i>2 Cor. 8:1</i>	<i>Macedonia</i>
(a church) meeting in a house	<i>Rom. 16:5</i>	<i>Priscilla & Aquila</i>
	<i>Philemon 1:2</i>	<i>Archippus</i>

The _____ **church is** _____.

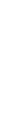
The _____ **church is** _____.

We need to recognize the difference between the
INVISIBLE and VISIBLE
 when we consider:

NAME



MEMBERSHIP



STRUCTURE



SALVATION



Why the Visible Church Matters...

God's Word reveals a structure (pattern of leadership) as part of truth,
 and we are to uphold the truth.
 We need leadership (sheep need shepherds)
 We need mutual edification
 God expects and commands us to grow up together as a family:
 God expects us to "come together" as the church - 1 Cor. 11:18
 God commands us to "not stop assembling." - Heb. 10:25
 We are responsible for and need each other. - 1 Cor. 12:4-26
 We are to use our gifts to serve one another. - 1 Peter 4:10