

# The Church: Body, Temple and Community

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## Strong's Definitions

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### CHURCH

**NT:1577 ekklesia** (ek-klay-see'-ah); from a compound of **NT:1537** and a derivative of **NT:2564**; a calling out, i.e. (concretely) a popular meeting, especially a religious congregation (Jewish synagogue, or Christian community of members on earth or saints in heaven or both): KJV-assembly, church.

**NT:1537 ek** (ek) or ex (ex); a primary preposition denoting origin (the point whence action or motion proceeds), from, out (of place, time, or cause; literal or figurative; direct or remote): KJV-after, among, X are, at, betwixt (-yond), by (the means of), exceedingly, (+abundantly above), for (-th), from (among, forth, up), + grudgingly, + heartily, X heavenly, X hereby, + very highly, in, ...ly, (because, by reason) of, off (from), on, out among (from, of), over, since, X thenceforth, through, X unto, X vehemently, with (-out). Often used in composition, with the same general import; often of completion.

**NT:2564 kaleo** (kal-eh'-o); akin to the base of **NT:2753**; to "call" (properly, aloud, but used in a variety of applications, dir. or otherwise): KJV-bid, call (forth), (whose, whose sur-) name (was [called]).

**NT:2753 keleuo** (kel-yoo'-o); from a primary kello (to urge on); "hail"; to incite by word, i.e. order: KJV-bid, (at, give) command (-ment).

### TEMPLE

**OT:1004 bayith** (bah'-yith); probably from **OT:1129** abbreviated; a house (in the greatest variation of applications, especially family, etc.): KJV-court, daughter, door, + dungeon, family, + forth of, X great as would contain, hangings, home [born], [winter] house (-hold), inside (-ward), palace, place, + prison, + steward, + tablet, temple, web, + within (-out).

**OT:1129 banah** (baw-naw'); a primitive root; to build (literally and figuratively): KJV-(begin to) build (-er), obtain children, make, repair, set (up), X surely.

**OT:1964 heykal** (hay-kawl'); probably from **OT:3201** (in the sense of capacity); a large public building, such as a palace or temple: KJV-palace, temple.

**OT:3201 yakol** (yaw-kole'); or (fuller) yakowl (yaw-kole'); a primitive root; to be able, literally (can, could) or morally (may, might): KJV-be able, any at all (ways), attain, can (away with, [-not]), could, endure, might, overcome, have power, prevail, still, suffer.

**OT:4720 miqdash** (mik-dawsh'); or miqqedash (Ex 15:17) (mik-ked-awsh'); from **OT:6942**; a consecrated thing or place, especially, a palace, sanctuary (whether of Jehovah or of idols) or asylum: KJV-chapel, hallowed part, holy place, sanctuary.

**OT:6942 qadash** (kaw-dash'); a primitive root; to be (causatively, make, pronounce or observe as) clean (ceremonially or morally): KJV-appoint, bid, consecrate, dedicate, defile, hallow, (be, keep) holy (-er, place), keep, prepare, proclaim, purify, sanctify (-ied oneself,), X wholly.

**NT:3485 naos** (nah-os'); from a primary naio (to dwell); a fane, shrine, temple KJV-shrine, temple. Comp **NT:2411**.



**NT:2411 hieron** (hee-er-on'); neuter of **NT:2413**; a sacred place, i.e. the entire precincts (whereas **NT:3485** denotes the central sanctuary itself) of the Temple (at Jerusalem or elsewhere): KJV-temple.

**NT:2413 hieros** (hee-er-os'); of uncertain affinity; sacred: KJV-holy.

**NT:3485 naos** (nah-os'); from a primary naio (to dwell); a fane, shrine, temple KJV-shrine, temple. Comp NT:2411.

## **The Church as the Bride of Christ**

John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' **The one who has the bride is the bridegroom.** The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. He must increase, but I must decrease."  
John 3:27-30 ESV

Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and **his Bride has made herself ready**; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. Revelation 19:7-8 ESV

Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "**Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.**" And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. Revelation 21:9-11 ESV

"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." **The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come."** And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. Revelation 22:16-17  
ESV

## **The Church as the Body of Christ**

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, **so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.** Romans 12:3-5 ESV

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? **The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?** Because there is one bread, **we who are many are one body**, for we all partake of the one bread. Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar? 1 Corinthians 10:16-18 ESV



Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks **without discerning the body** eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. 1 Corinthians 11:28-31 ESV

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For **in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body**—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, **God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose**. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, **there are many parts, yet one body**. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But **God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it**, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. **Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it**. 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 ESV

And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to **the church, which is his body**, the fullness of him who fills all in all. Ephesians 1:22-23 ESV

For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, **that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two**, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. Ephesians 2:14-16 ESV

This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, **members of the same body**, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Ephesians 3:6 ESV

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. **There is one body and one Spirit**—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. Ephesians 4:1-6 ESV

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, **for building up the body of Christ**, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of



doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way **into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together** by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, **makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.** Ephesians 4:11-16 ESV

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as **Christ is the head of the church, his body**, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Ephesians 5:22-24 ESV

For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, **just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body.** Ephesians 5:29-30 ESV

And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. **And he is the head of the body, the church.** He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. Colossians 1:17-18 ESV

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions **for the sake of his body, that is, the church.** Colossians 1:24 ESV

Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, and not **holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body**, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God. Colossians 2:18-19 ESV

And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, **to which indeed you were called in one body.** And be thankful. Colossians 3:14-15 ESV

## **The Church as the Household of God**

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, **and especially to those who are of the household of faith.** Galatians 6:10 ESV

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and **members of the household of God**, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Ephesians 2:19-22 ESV

For this reason I **bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named**, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and



height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:14-19 ESV

I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave **in the household of God, which is the church of the living God**, a pillar and buttress of truth. 1 Timothy 3:14-15 ESV

## **The Church as the Temple of God**

Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, "This man said, **'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'**" Matthew 26:59-61 ESV

And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, "We heard him say, **'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands**, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" Yet even about this their testimony did not agree. Mark 14:57-59 ESV

So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" Jesus answered them, **"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."** The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" But **he was speaking about the temple of his body**. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken. John 2:18-22 ESV

Do you not know that **you are God's temple** and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. **For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.** 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 ESV

Or do you not know that **your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you**, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 ESV

What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? **For we are the temple of the living God;** as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty." 2 Corinthians 6:15-18 ESV

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, **grows into a holy temple in the Lord**. In him you also are being built together into **a dwelling place for God by the Spirit**. Ephesians 2:19-22 ESV



Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, **so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.** 2

Thessalonians 2:3-4 ESV

**The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God.** Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.' Revelation 3:12-13 ESV

## **The Church as a Covenant Community**

(Selected references)

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. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Matthew 16:18-19 ESV

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 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. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." Matthew 18:15-20 ESV

And day after day they regularly assembled in the temple with united purpose, and **in their homes they broke bread [including the Lord's Supper]**. They partook of their food with gladness and simplicity and generous hearts, Constantly praising God and being in favor and goodwill with all the people; and the Lord kept adding [to their number] daily those who were being saved [from spiritual death]. Acts 2:46-47 AMP

Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. And **great fear came upon the whole church** and upon all who heard of these things. Acts 5:10-11 ESV

And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day **a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem**, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. But **Saul was ravaging the church**, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison. Acts 8:1-3 ESV



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And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. The report of this **came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem**, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. Acts 11:21-22 ESV

So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. **For a whole year they met with the church** and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians. Acts 11:25-26 ESV

About that time Herod the king **laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church**. He killed James the brother of John with the sword, and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. So Peter was kept in prison, but **earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church**. Acts 12:1-5 ESV

And when **they had appointed elders for them in every church**, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed. Acts 14:23 ESV

For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. 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. Acts 20:27-28 ESV

So if you have such cases, why do you lay them before **those who have no standing in the church**? I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers. 1 Corinthians 6:4-5 ESV

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. **Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God**, just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved. 1 Corinthians 10:31-33 ESV

For, in the first place, **when you come together as a church**, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized. When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? **Or do you despise the church of God** and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not. 1 Corinthians 11:18-22 ESV

The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but **the one who prophesies builds up the church**. Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, **so that the church may be built up**. 1 Corinthians 14:4-5 ESV

So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, **strive to excel in building up the church**. 1 Corinthians 14:12 ESV

For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, **because I persecuted the church of God**. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace

toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. 1 Corinthians 15:9-10 ESV

The churches of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Prisca, **together with the church in their house**, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 16:19 ESV

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, **To the church of God that is at Corinth**, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 1:1-2 ESV

For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, **how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it**. Galatians 1:13 ESV

So that **through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known** to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. Ephesians 3:10-12 ESV

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, **to him be glory in the church** and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21 ESV

He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if **someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?** 1 Timothy 3:4-5 ESV

If any believing woman has relatives who are widows, let her care for them. **Let the church not be burdened**, so that it may care for those who are really widows. 1 Timothy 5:16 ESV

But rather, you have come to Mount Zion, even to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to countless multitudes of angels in festal gathering, **And to the church (assembly) of the Firstborn who are registered [as citizens] in heaven**, and to the God Who is Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous (the redeemed in heaven) who have been made perfect, And to Jesus, the Mediator (Go-between, Agent) of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood which speaks [of mercy], a better and nobler and more gracious message than the blood of Abel [which cried out for vengeance]. Hebrews 12:22-24 AMP

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? **Let him call for the elders of the church**, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. James 5:13-14 ESV

**I have written something to the church**, but Diotrephes, who likes to put himself first, does not acknowledge our authority. So if I come, I will bring up what he is doing, talking wicked nonsense against us. And not content with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers, and **also stops those who want to and puts them out of the church**. 3 John 9-10 ESV



As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and **the seven lampstands are the seven churches.** Revelation 1:20 ESV

**"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:** 'The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands. Revelation 2:1 ESV

Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. He who has an ear, **let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.** To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.' Revelation 2:6-7 ESV

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. **He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**"  
Revelation 3:20-22 ESV

**"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches.** I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. Revelation 22:16-17 ESV

