

The “Called Out” of The One Body

Sunday, June 22, 2025

Today, I would like to take a look at the word, “church” in the New Testament. In studying this word, we will see some great and important truths about our lives as Christian believers. Most of us have learned the ways in which the word “church” is used in the New Testament. At times, we whiz right past the usage of this word without considering its importance, significance or meaning to our lives in this Grace Administration.

When we see a building with a steeple on it, we point to it and say, “That is a church.” This is one usage – a building. Another current usage of the word “church” is a group of people who gather for religious worship i.e. “we’re on our way to church this morning.” We also refer to various denominations such as the Methodist, Presbyterian or Roman Catholic churches. However, another usage of the word “church is a group of people who are born again of God’s Spirit. The meaning of “church” varies with its context.

The Greek word for our English word “church” is *ekklēsia*, meaning “the called out.” This is very significant. In the Bible, When people are called out, it may be for various reasons; for example, if a group of people decided they were going bowling and then gathered at the bowling alley, they would be an *ekklēsia* because they are “called out” to bowl. In **Acts 19**, a mob is called a church, an *ekklēsia*. Why? Because a mob is composed of a group of people who have gathered for a specific purpose.

Acts 19:23 And the same time there arose no small stir about that way. **24** For a certain *man* named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen; **25** Whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth.

They have one specific purpose: *making money by silversmithing*. Let’s move down to **verse 32**.

32 Some therefore cried one thing, and some another: for the assembly [*ekklēsia*, the called out] was confused; and the more part knew not wherefore they were come together.

A large company of silversmiths under Demetrius were stirred up for fear that their comfortable income was being diminished by Paul’s coming to town. Paul preached the greatness of Word which contradicted the usage of the silversmiths’ medals, amulets and charms to represent the goddess Diana. Although the mob wasn’t certain what the real issue was, Demetrius had emotionally incited them against Paul. One group cried one things and some another because the church, the assembly of silversmiths, the *ekklēsia* was confused. Here the word “assembly” is translated from the Greek word, *ekklēsia*, the called out, the “church” of silversmiths.

The Day of Pentecost was signified by the manifestation of the gift of holy spirit by way of speaking in tongues. Jesus had been teaching them about when that day would come, and what would happen when the Comforter had come. The Apostle Paul wrote the nine different Church [*ekklēsia*] Epistles. These epistles are written to the “called out” the *ekklēsia*, the Church to which every Christian is a member. Therefore, it is important to see these specific letters written by revelation from God Almighty to us. Starting in the New Testament book of Romans, we see that it is written to the “called out,” the Church.

Romans 1:6 Among whom are ye also the called [called out] of [by] Jesus Christ.

Although **Romans** was originally written to the saints, the Church, the called out of those that were assembled in Rome, each epistle that Paul wrote was subsequently passed from one church to the others. All Church epistles

were encyclicals designed to be read by all the Church. However, in the Greek texts, there was an original destination addressed in all of the other epistles, and the original destination of this epistle was most likely Rome; the same would be true for say, **Ephesus**, or **Colossae**. Destination is not important, but content is!

Colossians 4:16 And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church [*ekklēsia*] of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the *epistle* from Laodicea.

The common thread is that all of the epistles are written to the Church, the “called out” to which we all belong. Look at **I Corinthians 1:2**. This verse describes who and what the called out are made up of. (It’s a great verse!)

I Corinthians 1:2 Unto the church [*ekklēsia*] of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours.

This salutation extends the definition of those who are called out, namely, “Unto the church [*ekklēsia*] of God.” to them “that are sanctified,” meaning “set apart from the common lot” in Christ Jesus. Called to be saints, meaning called to be “set apart holy ones.” Furthermore, it states: “in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.”

These descriptions are part of a great summation of what the Church of God, the “called out” is comprised of. A great axiom is used here in this verse. An axiom states that “**things that are equal to the same thing are equal to each other.**” It is also referred to in mathematical logic as the “**transitive property of equality,**” by Euclid. In the case in this verse, “**the Church of God,**” is equal to “**them that are sanctified,**” which is equal to “**called to be saints,**” which is equal to “**all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.**” If you are born-again, all of these things are part of what make up your new-life in Christ, spiritually. These are the descriptions of each believer from the called-out. However, these are not the only things that describe Christians, as we shall see.

II Corinthians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy *our* brother, unto the church [*ekklēsia*] of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia.

We, who have been called out by Jesus Christ, are called to be saints [called to be set apart, to be holy ones], and we comprise the “Church of God.” In **Ephesians 1**, it states that it is written to those who are faithful in Christ Jesus, where Christ is the head.

Ephesians 1:22 And hath put all *things* under his [Jesus Christ’s] feet, and gave him to be the head over all *things* to the church [*ekklēsia*, called out], **23** Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Christ fills all things in all people who have believed in him. Therefore, they are completely full. The members of the Church make up the Body of Christ. In this Church of the Body, there is only one head and that is the Lord Jesus Christ. This Church of the Body, is also called the Church of God in this Grace Administration in which we now live. When all things were finished by his life, death, resurrection and ascension, Jesus Christ founded this “called out,” Church of the Grace Administration, by God’s direction. This Church will remain until the return of Christ, the gathering together. Let’s also see how this church, this called out of God is different than all others before or after it. Entrance into the Church of the Body consists of all those called out from among both Jew and Gentile.

Ephesians 3:4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)
5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; **6** That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel.

Anyone from any background, be it Jew or Gentile, has the ability to become a member in this church, this is the “called out” by God. How do they become a member? Simple: **Romans 10:9: That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.**

Although the believers on the Day of Pentecost had received the gift of holy spirit, the power from on high, they could not explain, nor comprehend, the fullness of the miracle which had occurred, just as I cannot explain electricity although I enjoy the utilization of it. On the Day of Pentecost, and for a period of time following, the believers benefited from the new birth and the power from the Holy Spirit, but could not explain much about what they had.

Finally, years later, the revelation that explained the gift from God that came at Pentecost was given to the Apostle Paul. To Paul was revealed the greatest mystery the world has ever known – the mystery of the One Body of Christ, which is his Church. Does this sound like a big deal? To us, maybe not. But to God, it is the height of importance. Years, centuries, even millennia had past since the dawn of mankind. Yet, God kept it secret.

This mystery was the first thing that the believers lost or forgot about in the first century. The first thing lost is usually the last thing to be recovered. Most people have no idea what the great mystery is, let alone being able to live with its power and glory. This mystery is what’s behind the “called out” from Jews and Gentiles.

Romans 16:25: Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, 26 But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith.

Paul is mentioning the “revelation of the mystery,” kept secret since the world began. More details in Ephesians 3.

Ephesians 3:2: If ye have heard of the dispensation [administration] of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: 3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, 4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)

Bible scholars believe that Colossians was written before Ephesians. We don’t know that for sure. Both are prison epistles. Both were sent by Tychicus. It is possible that he carried both epistles to Asia with him, and were handed out during that time. Colossae is about 150 miles from Ephesus. In the course of time, Colossians may have been read first, hence the term used, “...as I wrote afore in few words.” So it is plausible that that is why he says this.

5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. 6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel.

It was no mystery that the Gentiles would be blessed under Abraham’s and David’s ministries and during Israel’s reign. The Old Testament is full of examples of this. But the Old Testament does not give the slightest inkling that the Gentiles would ever be fellowheirs or joint-heirs, “of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel.” This revelation of this mystery was, to say the least, revolutionary news.

VERSE 7: Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. 8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.

The word “unsearchable” can be translated “untraceable.” The mystery of the riches of God’s grace to the Gentiles could literally not be tracked in the Word of God from the Old Testament through the Gospels. That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs and of the same Body was a secret, hidden from the beginning of the world. As the called out to

this one body, we do not have instructions in “supporting” either Jew or Gentile. It’s not our job to “help” them with their “religious beliefs.” But it is our job to preach the good news to both Jew and Gentile so that they too can be fellowheirs. The Word of God says that we should make “**ALL MEN SEE...**” this great mystery.

Verse 9 And to make all *men* see [*enlighten all people*] **what is the fellowship** [Text reads *oikonomia* - administration] **of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things.**

The word “fellowship” should be translated “administration.” This is our administration to which we were called out.

Colossians 1:26 *Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: 27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

The mystery, so important that it was kept secret since the foundation of the world, is to all “called out” born-again believers from Jews and Gentiles. We are fellowheirs and of the same Body and that it is **CHRIST IN YOU!** When Jesus was here upon earth, he could only be at one place at one time, But after he ascended into heaven, the power of the holy spirit was made manifest on the Day of Pentecost. On that day, and every day since, the people that believe receive **Christ in them, the hope of glory!** Everywhere a believer is, **it is Christ in them!** Had the devil known this mystery, he would have never crucified Jesus Christ. The devil was totally unaware of God’s plan.

I Corinthians 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God ~~in~~ ^a [regarding the] **mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our [the Church’s] glory: 8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.**

The devil as the ruling prince of this world would much rather had Jesus Christ personally upon earth than to have thousands, even millions of believers with Christ in them scattered across the world! However, the devil has done a pretty good job of talking believers out of it, or keeping them away from what they have in Christ. Most have never heard of “**Christ in you, the hope of glory,**” let alone learned to walk in the great power that they have been given by God. Jesus taught his disciples that the day was coming that they could walk in great power as stated in **John 14:12** “...he who believes on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.”

What work did Jesus do? He healed the sick, he raised the dead, he cast out devils. The great works that Jesus did, we can do also. Furthermore it states, “...and greater works shall he do because I go unto my Father.” That is a very powerful statement! What greater works are there? What was it that Jesus did not do that we can do according the accuracy of the Word? One thing is the miracle of the new birth! The new birth was not available at that time, and now it is because Jesus did ascend to his Father! Just as the great mystery of God was revealed and the heart of the Church of God, the “called out” of the One Body was made known, so it is that we can learn what this great revelation is all about! The devil has been defeated, but he is doing everything he can to make everyone think that he’s the winner in all of this. He’s a liar, a cheat, and a murderer. He’s done for! Total Defeat! So it is up to us to make this known to everyone, and that we have Christ in us, the hope of glory! We can knock him silly until Christ returns. So let’s to that. And lets appreciate all that God and Jesus Christ has done for us, and what we are and have in this great “called out” Church of the one Body.