

Part 1 WHO IS THE CHURCH, **AND THEN WHAT?** - EKKLESIA -

The other 5 E's are: Exalting Equipping Empowering Evangelizing Engaging

The Ekklesia ("Church") is not a building but:

<u>Everyone</u> who has put their faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation universally, who gather locally, to <u>exalt</u> Christ, <u>equip</u> and <u>empower</u> believers, and then scatter to <u>evangelize</u> and live out the gospel while by <u>engaging</u> the world. There was a transition from the Old to the New Covenant in *Acts*. What **we know** as the "*church*" gradually occurred. After Jesus was raised from the dead, His early followers were mostly Jewish.

It took years for the transition from the concept of the Kingdom, to what we know as grace.

Jesus was crucified, died, buried and resurrected about **30AD**. Peter went to Cornelius, about **7 years later** in *Acts 10* - **37AD** Paul came on the scene about **48AD**; about the same year as *Acts 15* and the *Counsel of Jerusalem*...

That's almost 20 years after the resurrection.

A. A group of people - Galatians 3:26-28

...for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized [*spiritually*] into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. - See 1 Corinthians 12:12-19

There will be differences within any church. All of this is important, but...

Are our personal views more important than, or a replacement of the truth?

B. Who have put their faith in Jesus Christ alone <u>universally</u> - <u>Calations</u> 3:8-11

And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by 1000, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed." So then, those who are of 1000 are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.