

Lesson #1
Her Identity



- I. **The Word "Church":** The word "church" is derived from the Greek word *ekklesia* and speaks of an assembly or group of people, spiritual and political, who have been "called out" or "called together" for a specific purpose.
 - A. In Acts, Luke uses the word *ekklesia* to refer to both the people of Israel as a congregation in the wilderness and a town hall assembly – Acts 7:38, 19:32, 39, 41.
 - B. In Matthew, Jesus proclaims that He will build His "church" – Matt. 16:18.
 - C. In Ephesians, Paul describes the church's relationship to Christ – Eph. 1:22-23, 3:10, 5:23, 25, 27, 29.

- II. **Two Phases of the Church:** Church exists in two realms: the Church that encompasses all believers and the church which is a local, tangible gathering of believers.
 - A. The Universal Church speaks of all believers, both in heaven and on earth, from the day of Pentecost to the present day up until the Rapture – Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 12:13; Col. 1:18; Heb. 12:22-23.
 - B. The Local Church speaks of a localized group of believers who gather under Christ's headship and a local leadership team, to observe the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper and to make disciples through the proclamation of the Scriptures, prayer, and fellowship – Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42, 9:3.

- III. **Figures of the Church:** The Scriptures utilize seven different images that help capture the role of the Church and her relationship with Christ.
 1. The Head and the Body of Christ – 1 Cor. 12:12-31.
 2. The last Adam and His new creation – 1 Cor. 15:45; Rom. 5:12-21.
 3. The Shepherd and His sheep – John 10:1-30.
 4. The Chief Cornerstone and the living stones – Eph. 2:19-22; 1 Pet. 2:4-8.
 5. The Bridegroom and His bride – John 14:2-3; Eph. 5:25-32.
 6. The High Priest and His royal priesthood – 1 Pet. 2:5-9.
 7. The Vine and His branches – John 15:1-8.

Next Week
Lesson #2 – Her Calling