

Paul's View of the Church

- *Ekklesia*
- Images of the Church
- People of God
- The church and Israel
- Body of Christ
- Temple of the Spirit

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Paul's View of the Church

- *Ekklesia* - church
 - Often interpreted as *ek* + *kaleo* = called-out ones.
 - Secular Greek = political assembly.
 - LXX = assembly of God's people.
 - Basic meaning is assembly of God's people.
- Used for believers who gather in a home (Rom. 16:5); geographical area (Rom. 16:1); all believers everywhere (Col. 1:18, 24).
- Implications for Paul's view of the church?

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Paul's View of the Church

- What are some images of the church Paul uses?
 - People of God
 - Citizens of the kingdom of God
 - Body of Christ
 - Temple of Holy Spirit
 - The sanctified or saints
 - Those who are "in Christ" or "in the Spirit," not "in the flesh" or "in Adam." Participants in the new age (the age to come).

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Paul's View of the Church

- The church as the people of God.
 - Eschatological community experiencing the life of the kingdom of God.
 - Transferred into Christ's kingdom (Col. 1:13).
 - Present experience of the Spirit (Rom. 14:17).
 - Citizenship in heaven (Phil. 3:20).
 - Inheriting the kingdom in the eschaton (1 Thess. 2:12; Rom. 8:17).

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Paul's View of the Church

- Relationship between the church and Israel.
 - Romans 9-11 deals with this specifically.
 - Israel is God's people (11:1).
 - The Gentiles are now, too (9:24-26).
 - Romans 11:1-6 - What does this say?
 - Romans 11:11-24 - What does this say?
 - Ephesians 2:11-22 - What does this say?
- Implications of this image of the church?

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Paul's View of the Church

- Body of Christ - 1 Cor. 12:12-26; Eph. 4:15.
 - Unified body created by Spirit.
 - Diversity of believers, gifts (given by Spirit).
 - All members are important and necessary.
 - Interdependence of members.
 - Jesus Christ is head (source of life, nourishment).
 - Believers are united with him.
- Implications of this model?

6

Paul's View of the Church

- Both baptism and Lord's Supper can be understood in context of body of Christ.
 - Baptism represents incorporation into the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13).
 - Lord's Supper represents corporate participation in the body and blood of Christ (1 Cor. 10:16-22).

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Paul's View of the Church

- Spiritual gifts are given to build up the body of Christ (Rom. 12, 1 Cor. 12-14; Eph. 4).
- Spiritual gift is *charisma* from *charis* (grace) - i.e., gift of God's grace.
- Given to all Christians for building up the church (1 Cor. 12:28).
- Representative (not exhaustive) lists.
- Love is the way to exercise all the gifts.

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Paul's View of the Church

- Temple of the Holy Spirit
 - Church is created by the eschatological gift of the Spirit (Acts 2).
 - Church is characterized by the fellowship (*koinonia*) of the Spirit (2 Cor. 13:14).
 - Used for the universal church (Eph. 2:19-22).
 - Used for local church (1 Cor. 3:10-17).
 - Used for individual Christian (1 Cor. 6:19).
- Implications of this model?

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Paul's View of the Church

- Church organization
 - No fixed form; met in private homes.
 - Apostolic authority: spiritual and moral.
 - Apostles include Barnabas, Andronicus, Junia.
 - Elder (*presbyteros*), bishop (*episkopos*), deacon (*diakonos*), and other leadership functions.
 - Emphasis on gifts and character.
 - Female prophets, deacons, teachers (?), apostles.

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