



The Christian and the Church Why So Many?

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WHAT is the Church?

- “Upon this rock I will build my church...” – Matt. 16:18
- The church (*ekklēsia*) is the people of God, those redeemed by Christ
- “There is one body...” – Eph. 4:4; 1:22-23
- **Why are there so many in the world?**

HOW There Came To Be So Many



- Heresies
- Apostasy
- Efforts to reform
- Division

WHY There Came To Be So Many



- **Predictions and warnings**

- “in later times some will fall away from the faith...” – 1 Tim. 4:1-3
- “savage wolves...men will arise, speaking perverse things” – Acts 20:28-30
- “there will also be false teachers” – 2 Pet. 2:1
- “itching ears” – 2 Tim. 4:1-4

WHY There Came To Be So Many



- **Tendencies in the early church**
 - Teaching the precepts of men – Matt. 15:9
 - Following men, not Christ – 1 Cor. 1:10-13
 - Carnal attitudes – 1 Cor. 3:1-4
 - Philosophies and traditions of men – Col. 2:8

WHAT Should We Do?



- Preach the word – 2 Tim. 4:2
- Contend for the common faith and common salvation – Jude 3
- Edify the church for spiritual maturity – Eph. 4:11-16



The One Church

As Taught in Ephesians

Three Dimensions



- Upward Relationship – With God
- Inward Relationship – With One Another
- Outward Relationship – With the World



Our *Upward* Relationship **With God**

- The Church and the Godhead (1:3-14)
- The fullness of Christ (1:22-23)
- Saved, redeemed by Christ (2:1-10)
- God's eternal purpose (3:11)
- To give God the glory (3:21)



Our *Inward* Relationship **With One Another**

- Edification of the Body (4:1-16)
- Attitudes that preserve unity (4:1-6)
- Edifying conduct (4:20-29)
- Marriage principles (5:22-23)



Our *Outward* Relationship With The World

- “Saints” (1:1)
- Walk “no longer as the Gentiles” (4:17-20)
- Abstain from what is not “proper among saints” (5:3-5)
- Bride of Christ to be holy (5:26-27)