

THE CHURCH

Part One

Ekklesia is the Greek word translated in the New Testament as "church."

It comes from *ek*, meaning "out from and to" and *kaleo*, meaning "to call," and has to do with a group of people called out from one place and to another. It is an assembly or a congregation. The *ekklesia* in the New Testament is a group of people who have been called out of the world and to God; it is the church.

Most of the U.S. church is enamored with size over substance and microwave growth over true reproduction.

What makes this organism so special why do I love the church so much?

Because it's about life change!

Ephesians 4:11–16 NKJV

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

1. EQUIPPING OF THE SAINTS

Ephesians 4:12a NKJV

For the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

Equipping Greek *katartismos*

complete furnishing—perfecting.

Perfecting--The Greek implies *correcting* in all that is deficient, *instructing* and completing in number and all parts.

the ministry--Greek, "ministration" - The way of growth

2. TO A PERFECT MAN

Ephesians 4:12b-13 NKJV

the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Edifying Greek oikodomē

The act of building, building up edifying, edification.

The act of one who promotes another's growth in Christian wisdom, piety, happiness, holiness

Luke 1:17 NKJV

He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

3. NO LONGER CHILDREN

Ephesians 4:14-15 NKJV

that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

Matthew 24:23-25 NKJV

Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it. 24 For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. 25 See, I have told you beforehand.

2 Timothy 4:3-4 NKJV

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

2 Corinthians 11:3 BSB

I am afraid, however, that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may be led astray from your simple and pure devotion to Christ

4. AS ONE WORKING TOGETHER

Ephesians 4:16 NKJV

from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Ephesians 2:10 AMPC

For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live].