

# Doctrine of the Church

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## Introduction

**Matthew 16:18**

## Body

### Definitions

**Ecclesiology** - The study of the Church in its nature, ordinances, ministry, mission, and government.

***Kuriakon*** - The Greek word from which the English word “Church” is derived. It means “belonging to the Lord”. It’s never applied to the Church in the New Testament period but is found twice in the New Testament as an adjective applying to The Lord’s Supper and to the Lord’s Day.

***Ekklesia*** - Every use of the “Church” in the New Testament is translated from this Greek word. It means “an assembly of people”.

## Use of the Term “Church” in the New Testament

### The Universal Body of Christ

- The Universal Church is composed of all genuine Christian believers of all ages, both on earth and in paradise. The total Body of Christ

### The Local Church

- The Local Church is composed of Christian believers identified with a constituted body worshipping and serving Christ in one locality.

## **House Churches**

### **Churches Acting in Concert**

- The local churches had a lot of liberty to govern themselves, insofar as they were not governed by a central hierarchy. However the churches acted in concert and followed Apostolic Leadership

## How the Word “Church” is NOT used in the New Testament

### **It’s not used of a Building**

### **Not used to refer to a Denomination**

## The Officers, Ministers, and Leaders of the Church

- When problems arose in certain ministry activities, leaders were appointed to administer those activities
- The disciples met regularly for worship; at first, every day; later, they met on the first day of the week
- Diligence was given to the appointment of proper leadership
- Qualifications for elders and deacons are set forth in some detail.
- Each church had the authority to discipline or exclude certain members
- Members are admonished to respect and obey church leaders
- Missionaries are sent forth by the church with official sanction
- A council was convened in Jerusalem to settle for the whole Christian Church a dispute over doctrine and practice