



### Introduction:

- When it comes to the subject of “the Church,” there couldn’t be more opinions and perspectives.
- This morning, we will take a brief look at what the source of authority, the Bible, has to say about the Church.

## WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

### What It Is Not:

- The Church is not a \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Church is not a \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Church is not an \_\_\_\_\_.

Let’s examine the first use of the word “church” in the Bible.

*“And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18).*

**Church** – Gk. *ekklesia*:

*ek* –

*klesia* –

*The church can be defined as the ever-enlarging body of born-again believers over whom Christ reigns as Lord.*

Chuck Swindoll, **Growing Deep in the Christian Life**, p. 339

## WHAT DOES THE CHURCH DO?

### The Church \_\_\_\_\_ for Community (Acts 2:42-47).

- Community is experienced as believers devote ourselves to the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Community is achieved as believers devote ourselves to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Community is achieved as we devote ourselves to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Community is achieved as we devote ourselves to \_\_\_\_\_.

### The Church \_\_\_\_\_ for the Cause.

- **Jesus:** *“As you are going, make disciples of the nations; baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19, emphasis added).*
- **Peter:** *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, **that you may proclaim** the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light (I Peter 2:9, emphasis added).*
- **Paul:** *[God] gave us the ministry of reconciliation (II Corinthians 5:18).*

*The Early Church took Jesus’ mandate to tell the world seriously. Within two years, they had “filled Jerusalem with the gospel” (Acts 5:28). Within five years there were multiple churches (Acts 9:30-31). In 19 years, they had “turned the world upside down (Acts 17:6), and within 28 years, the gospel had spread all over the known world (Col. 1:5-6).*

**The Truth: Engaging the Foundations of the Faith**, p. 90

### Conclusion:

God’s Mission has a \_\_\_\_\_!