

Good News

From Getwell

Published by
Getwell Church of Christ

1511 Getwell Road
Memphis, Tennessee 38111-7299

Phone: (901) 743-0464

Fax: (901) 743-2197

E-Mail: mail@getwellchurchofchrist.org

Website: www.getwellchurchofchrist.org

ELDERS

Dewey Murray
Daniel P. Phillips
Ron Wallace

MINISTERS

Michael Wyatt, Minister
Ron Wallace, Assoc. Minister
Daniel P. Phillips

Publishers of
THE SPIRITUAL SWORD

Alan E. Highers, Editor

Home of
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SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY ACTIVITY

SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:20 a.m.
Worship.....5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

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ON THE HOME FRONT

Proverbs 5

- ¹ My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding:
- ² That thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge.
- ³ For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil:
- ⁴ But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword.
- ⁵ Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell.
- ⁶ Lest thou shouldest ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, that thou canst not know them.
- ⁷ Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth.
- ⁸ Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house:
- ⁹ Lest thou give thine honour unto others, and thy years unto the cruel:
- ¹⁰ Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labours be in the house of a stranger;
- ¹¹ And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed,
- ¹² And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof;
- ¹³ And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me!
- ¹⁴ I was almost in all evil in the midst of the congregation and assembly.
- ¹⁵ Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well.
- ¹⁶ Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets.
- ¹⁷ Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee.
- ¹⁸ Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth.
- ¹⁹ Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love.
- ²⁰ And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger?
- ²¹ For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings.
- ²² His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.
- ²³ He shall die without instruction; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.

Ron Wallace

RON'S REMINDERS



Kingdom or Church?

It may surprise you to learn that the church of the Bible does not have a proper name. By definition church (ekklesia) means "the called out" and refers to those who have been called out of the world into fellowship with God, by faith and obedience to the gospel (Hebrews 5:8-9; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

I. KINGDOM REFERS TO THE CHURCH'S FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

The church is pictured in different ways, according to which aspect one is considering. It is called a body when one is considering the unity of its members. It is called a vineyard when one considers it is the place where God's servants work to grow the fruit of the Spirit. It is called a family when one considers its members' relationship to the Father and each other. It is called an army when one recalls that it engages Satan's forces in a to-the-death battle for the souls of men. When its government is considered it is called a kingdom because it is a monarchy (ruled by a monarch or king).

This should not be confusing: I am a man, a son, a husband, a father, an American, a taxpayer, a fan, an employee, a writer, and a Christian. Likewise, the church is referred to by several designations in Scripture.

Consider these descriptions:

- the churches of Christ (Romans 16:16).
- the church of the Lord (Acts 20:28 asv).
- the church of God (1 Corinthians 1:2).

- the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:12).
- the church of the living God (1 Timothy 3:15).
- the church of the firstborn (Hebrews 12:23).

II. THE TERMS ARE USED INTERCHANGEABLY.

Church and *kingdom* are used interchangeably in the New Testament. Jesus said, "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 16:18-19). Obviously, He is talking about the same institution in back-to-back sentences, much like I might say, "You may borrow my van. Here are the keys to the Honda."

Jesus promised to build His church and gave Peter the keys (terms of admission) of the kingdom. If the church and kingdom were different, Peter would have no right to use the keys of the kingdom on the church. It would be like using your Ford keys to try to drive my Honda.

If the kingdom has not yet been established, as many teach, then Peter lived the rest of his natural life and never got to use the keys at all. Why would Jesus give him useless keys? The kingdom or church was established on the first Pentecost following the resurrection of Jesus Christ. On that day Peter used the keys of the kingdom to let three thousand people into the door of the church (Acts 2:38-47).

III. THE KINGDOM AND CHURCH HAVE THE SAME IDENTIFYING MARKS.

It is hard to miss that the institutions are the same when carefully reading the New Testament. Consider:

- The church and the kingdom have the same head. Christ is the head of the church (Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:23) and He is also the King of the kingdom (Acts 17:7; Revelation 1:5; 1 Timothy 6:15).

- They are entered into on the same conditions. Jesus said, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). Men are born into the kingdom by being baptized in water according to the Spirit's gospel. On Pentecost the Spirit led sinners, through the apostles' message, to believe, repent, and be baptized for remission of sins (Acts 2:38). They were then added to the church (2:47). The same process by which a person entered the kingdom added him to the church.

- The kingdom and the church have the same subjects. Paul said that the saints had been translated into the kingdom (Colossians 1:13), which was also "the body, the church" (1:18).

- The church and the kingdom have the same seed. Jesus spoke of the word of God as being the "word of the kingdom" (Matthew 13:19) which produces subjects of the kingdom. When the same word was preached in Corinth (1 Corinthians 15:1-3), many of the Corinthians heard it, believed it, and were baptized (Acts 18:8). Paul addressed them as the "church of God" (1 Corinthians 1:2). If the church and the kingdom are not the same, then one seed was producing two different plants, which is a contradiction to both nature and revelation (Genesis 1:11; Galatians 6:7-8).

- They have the same laws. Peter wrote: "His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to

glory and virtue" (2 Peter 1:3). If either the kingdom or the church had one thing that pertained to life or godliness which the other did not have, then the one lacking it would be imperfect, and Peter's statement would not be true of both. Hence, they must have the same laws.

Someone designed a helpful chart comparing the identifying marks of the kingdom and the church, and in so doing, showed they are the same institution.

IDENTIFYING MARKS-KINGDOM/CHURCH

1. Beginning place/ date
Isaiah 2:2-3/ Acts 2:1-47
2. Boundary of territory
Daniel 2:44/Mark 16:15
3. Owner of institution
John 18:36/Matthew 16:18
4. Ruler of inhabitants
1 Timothy 6:15/Ephesians 5:23
5. Governing law
Isaiah 2:3/ Acts 2:38-47
6. Christ gave keys
Matthew 16:19/Matthew 16:18
7. Terms of entrance
John 3:5/ Acts 2:38-47
8. Membership
Colossians 1:13/Colossians 1:2
9. Its glory and exaltation
Isaiah 2:2-3/Ephesians 3:21
10. Memorial supper
Matthew 26:29/1 Corinthians 11:20
11. Reward of faithful
Matthew 25:34/1 Corinthians 15:58
12. Time of deliverance
1 Corinthians 15:24/1 Thessalonians 4:16

Since things equal to the same thing are equal to each other, it is easy to conclude that the kingdom and the church are the same institution.

Christ invites you to become a member of the greatest institution on earth (Matthew 11:28-30). Why not take Him up on it?