

THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH JESUS PRESENTS DOCTRINAL ASPECTS OF THE CHURCH IN THE FOUR GOSPELS

In the New Testament, the terms "church" and "kingdom" are often used interchangeably.

Below are statements about the church, or kingdom in the four Gospels given by the Lord to the Apostles. However, if the Apostles did what Jesus told them to do, i.e. teach all the world the things He had taught them, then we should not make a qualitative difference between the Gospels and the Epistles. I sometimes say all the doctrinal teachings, and all of the commandments found in the Epistles should also be printed in red! Paul tells the Ephesian elders that he had taught them everything that was profitable to them, all that was in God's purpose for them (Acts 20 verse 20, and verse 27). For this reason in 1st Corinthians 14:43 Paul says what he had written them was the Lord's command. He also lauds the Thessalonians for accepting his message to them, not as coming from men, but rather coming from the Lord (1 Thess. 1:9). In 1 Corinthians 2:1-16 Paul explains how he and other inspired men taught the word of the Lord as they were guided by the Spirit.

For a fuller view of the mandate given the Apostles by Christ see the lesson entitled "The Holy Spirit Identifies The Mission Of The Messiah And The Apostles."

JESUS' STATEMENTS RELATED TO THE CHURCH IN THE GOSPELS:

1. It was to be established soon – Matthew 4:17, Mark 9:1.
2. Christ's death had to occur first – John 10:11-15. Luke 24:46-48.
3. Christ is the foundation of the church – Matt. 16:13-19.
4. The Apostles were to have authority over it – Matt. 18:18-19.
5. There were to be no national distinctions – John 10:16, Mark 16:15, Matt. 28:19.
6. Entry by a new birth (baptism) – John 3:3-8, Mark 16:16, Matt. 28:19, Acts 2:38.
7. Love motivates obedience, Jesus' words direct – John 14:15, 23-24
8. Freedom in the church is through truth – John 8:31-32, 5:24, 17:17.
9. Humility is an essential characteristic - Matt. 18:1-4.
10. Greatness to be obtained through serving – Matt. 20:20-28.
11. Christ gives the true nature of worship – John 4:21-2
12. The "Lord's Supper" is to be a living memorial – Matt. 26:26-30.
13. Unity to be a necessary trait – John 17:20-23.
14. Christ's presence guarantees the church's continuity – Matt. 28:20.
15. The Holy Spirit would direct the Apostles – John 14:16-17, 26; 15:26-27, 16:13.
16. It would have a world mission – Luke 24:46-48.
17. How to discipline an unrepentant member – Matt. 18:15-17.
18. It would have its beginning in Jerusalem – Luke 24:47.

19. It would begin with an outpouring of the Holy Spirit – Mark 9:1 Luke 24:49.
20. Its final destination would be heaven – John 17:24 14:1-6.
21. Jesus validates the Synagogue (Luke 4:16), which seems the prototype of the church. No sacrifices were offered there, they were autonomous, where there were ten heads of family they could establish a synagogue, they had elders, teachers, persons who served in some ways as deacons do, they had no woman leadership in their assembly, and sang acappella.
22. Rules related to marriage, divorce, and remarriage (Matthew 19:3-9).
23. He came not to abolish but to fulfill the Law (Matthew 5:17-19).
24. As we have seen, Jesus told His disciples to teach to the world all of the things that He taught them! Did they do that? Paul said he did! (Acts 20:17-21, 26-27).
25. “If they persecuted Me, They will also persecute you.” John 15:20.
26. “In the world you have tribulation, but take courage, I have overcome the world.” John 16:33.
27. “He began to show his disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things and be killed and be raised up on the third day” Matt. 16:21.
- 28.
2. He invited his disciples (and us as well) to come live with Him – “In my Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you, for I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself that where I am there you many be also!”

LET’S ALL MAKE A DECISION TO MEET TOGETHER THERE! CM