

# Series at a glance

- God's Plan for the World
- **What is the *church*?**
- Leadership of the church
- God's Word as the DNA of the church
- Relationships as the lifeblood of the church
- Distinctives of LSCC





# What is the church?

- A. A building—*Did you see the new church being built downtown?*
- B. An event—*Hey, I missed you at church last week!*
- C. An organization—*How much did you donate to the church last year?*
- D. A community—*The church really helped me out during a difficult time.*





“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My **church**; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”

Matthew 16:18





And great fear came over the whole church, and  
over all who heard these things.

Acts 5:11





This is the one who, in the **congregation** in the wilderness, was with the angel who was speaking to him on Mount Sinai and with our fathers; the one who received living oracles to pass on to you.

Acts 7:38





Now Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death. And on that day a great persecution began against the **church** in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

But Saul began ravaging the **church**, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he was delivering them into prison.





So the **church** throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria was having peace, being built up. And going on in the fear of the Lord and in the encouragement of the Holy Spirit, it continued to multiply.

Acts 9:31





After saying this he dismissed the **meeting**.

Acts 19:41





Greet one another with a holy kiss. All  
the **churches** of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:16





For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and who will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church.

1 Cor 4:17





Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and I fill up what is lacking of Christ's afflictions in my flesh, on behalf of His body, which is the church...

Colossians 1:24





...saying, “I will recount your name to my brothers, in the midst of the **assembly** I will sing your praise.”





He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says  
to the churches.

Revelation 3:22





# Church defined

- Ekklesia
  - Prefix: ek (or ex), meaning “out of” or “from”
  - Root: kaleo, meaning “to call”





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  - Root: kaleo, meaning “to call”
  - Literal: the called out ones
  - General: a gathering or assembly





# Church defined

- Ekklesia
  - Prefix: ek (or ex), meaning “out of” or “from”
  - Root: kaleo, meaning “to call”
  - Literal: the called out ones
  - General: a gathering or assembly
  - Big “C” church; the universal church, the invisible church
  - Little “c” church; a visible, local body of believers





# Called Out

- Outward call
  - Jesus calling His disciples
  - “Faith comes by hearing”





As He was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. **And Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”** And immediately they left their nets and followed Him. And going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who were also in the boat mending the nets. **And immediately He called them;** and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went away to follow Him.





And as He passed by, He saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting in the tax office, and **He said to him, “Follow Me!”** And he stood up and followed Him.

And He went up on the mountain and **summoned those whom He Himself wanted, and they came to Him.**

Mark 2:14; 3:13





But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart”  
—that is, **the word of faith which we are preaching**, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, leading to righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, leading to salvation... for  
“Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? **How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? And how will they preach unless they are sent?** Just as it is written,  
“How beautiful are the feet of the those who proclaim Good News of good things!” **So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.**





# Called Out

- Outward call
  - Jesus calling His disciples
  - “Faith comes by hearing”
- Inward call
  - Regeneration
  - An inward faith/trust/belief sustained by the Holy Spirit





“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.”

John 6:44





But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Romans 8:11





# Purpose of the “called out ones”

- Acts 2:42 — The church is devoted to:





And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

Acts 2:42





# Purpose of the “called out ones”

- Acts 2:42 — The church is devoted to:
  - Sound teaching & doctrine
  - Fellowship among the believers
  - Breaking of bread together
  - Prayer

