

What is the "Church"?

# What is the "Church"?

- *building*
- *clergy*
- *whole body of Christians*
- *denomination*
- *congregation*
- *public divine worship*

# Collective noun

collection of thingS/personS  
regarded as a unit    AHD

- one link NOT a chain
- one cow NOT a herd
- one Christian NOT a church

1Co 12:12,14 (Eph 1:22,23)

# Units of the collective

- Israelites Acts 7:38
- Rioters Acts 19:32
- Greek citizens Acts 19:39
- Christians 1Co 1:2; 12:13,27f

## Some common bond between the units collected

- simply a plurality of links  $\neq$  chain
- simply a plurality of cows  $\neq$  herd
- simply a plurality of Christians  $\neq$  church

**Mt 18:15-17**

*Something common...What is it?*  
*Various uses of "church" in NT...*

# "Church" - Universal

Common - "in Christ"

whole body of Christians

Mt 16:16,18; Ac 2:41,47; Heb 12:23

- body 1Co 12:12-14,27
- temple Eph 2:20-22
- royal priesthood 1Pt 2:9

Eph 1:3...3:21

# "Church" - District

**Common - live in same area**

body of Christians living in defined area

**Acts 9:31**

# "Church" - Local

Common - a specific fellowship  
group of Christians worshiping and  
worshiping together in a locality

Php 1:1...27...4:15;

1Co 1:2...11:20...14:26...16:1,2

*Not simply assembly ... geography ...*

Common assembly ... oversight ... fund

E.g. Philippi ... Corinth ... Eph ... etc.



# "Church" - Assembled

Common - physical assembly  
group of Christians assembled

1Co 11:18,22; 14:4 (vv23-25)

14:12 (v16); 14:19,28,33,34,35

# “Church”?

- *Only members of “church” going to heaven?*
- *Those in the “church” are saved?*
- *Enter the “church” through baptism?*
- *Work of the “church”?*
- *Elders oversee the “church”?*
- *One “church”?*

Distinguish LOCAL and UNIVERSAL!  
*next lesson ...*