

WE ARE THE CHURCH!

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. **Matthew 16:18**

THE NATURE & CHARACTER OF THE CHURCH

1. The Church Is One

Ephesians 4:3-6

A. The Church is one body.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

B. The Church is inclusive.

Galatians 2:8-10

2. The Church Is Holy

1 Peter 2:9

*It is the fellowship of the sanctified...in unsanctified places!

1 Corinthians 1:1-2

A. The Church is expected to be holy.

2 Corinthians 7:1

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

B. The Church is expected to be yielded to God.

Romans 12:1

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

C. The Church is empowered for sanctification.

Romans 8:1

Galatians 5:16

3. The Church Is Universal

Galatians 3:26-28

Colossians 3:9-11

The true Church is not identified with any human grouping, culture, or structure. Its boundaries are not drawn in terms of any human differentiations.

4. The Church Is Apostolic

The Apostles were the first and authentic witnesses of Jesus Christ. It was through them that the record and message of the gospel came.

A. The Church is Apostolic in its foundation.

Ephesians 2:19-20

B. The Church is Apostolic in its adherence.

1 Corinthians 15:1

2 Thessalonians 2:15

C. The Church is Apostolic in its conduct.

1 Timothy 3:14-15

D. The Church is Apostolic in its transmission.

2 Timothy 2:1-2

* Apostolicity is the preservation and honoring of Holy Scripture. Where Scripture is read and preached as the basis of evangelism and edification and the **supreme** rule of faith and **practice**, that...is the true Apostolic Church!

So the Church is One, Holy, Universal, Apostolic Body which preaches, teaches, and exemplifies the truth...according to God's Word!

It is this Church that is the salvation of the world and blessing of all those who are in Christ!

We – Are The Church!