

# Christ and His Church

## What is the Church?

December 27, 2015, by Philip Pinto @ Village Bible Church

True or False? “I believe the church is God’s primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth.”

Misconceptions about the church abound!

Outside the church

Within the church

In search of the perfect church?

Problems with consumer driven approaches to church



**The solution?** A biblical understanding of church!

### 1) The “body” of Christ? (1 Cor. 12:11-27)

“Now you are the body of Christ (church at Corinth) and individually (each of you who are Christians) members of it.” (v. 27)

i.e., if you are a believer in Jesus Christ, you have a function to perform in the body of Christ. You cannot declare that because you aspire to a different role in the body, you can function apart from the body!

### 2) Unity in the Body (John 17)

#### a. The Starting Point

- “Father...glorify you Son that the Son may glorify you” (v. 1b)
- Christ given authority over all flesh to give eternal life to all whom God gave Him (v. 2)
- Eternal life defined: to know God and Jesus Christ who He sent (v.3)

#### b. Christ’s first work in His people

- Manifested God’s name (v. 6a)

(over)

- People kept God's word (v. 6c)
  - Gave them the words God gave Him (v. 8)
    - People received the words
    - People received them / came to know that Jesus came from God (v. 8b)
    - People believed (v. 8c)
- c. Christ's **prayer** for His people
  - God to keep them in His name (v. 11b)
    - So they would be one as God the Father and God the Son (v. 11c)
    - So they would experience *Christ's* joy fulfilled (v. 13b)
  - God to set them apart in the truth of His word as Christ sent them into the world (v. 17-18)
- d. Christ's prayer for people of **today**
  - For us to reflect the unity of the Father and Son as we, together, are in the Father and Son (v. 21a)
    - So the world will believe that God sent Jesus (v. 21b)
  - For us to become "perfectly one" (v. 23a)
    - So the world will know God sent Christ **and** that God loves the world (v. 23b)
- e. **Unity** (being "perfectly one") is the key to reaching the world
- f. Christ's **desires** for us to be with Him
  - That we would be with Christ where He actually is! (v. 24a)
    - So we can see His glory (v. 24b)
  - Just as Christ made God's name known before, He intends to continue to make it known (v. 26a)
    - So God's love will be in us, and Jesus will be in us (v. 26b)

**Unity** with each other is related to **unity** in Christ and the Father.

The church is the body of Christ that must be focused on cultivating in its membership the personal knowledge of God that leads to a **unity** with Christ and the Father that implants a passion for **unity** with each other so we can reach the world.