

Colossians Series

Lesson #28

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Dean Bible Ministries

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A landscape photograph showing a field in the foreground, a line of trees in the middle ground, and mountains in the background under a clear sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

**COLOSSIANS:
Jesus Christ is All Sufficient**

**The Church, the Body of Christ
Colossians 1:24b**

Col. 1:24, “I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,”

The Doctrine of the Church

Introduction

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1. Terminology:

**ἐκκλησία (*ekklēsia*), assembly, meeting,
congregation, church;**

- **Originally this word was used in Greek to refer to an assembly of citizens; it is used this way in Acts 19:39.**
- **In the LXX it is used for the congregation of Israel or the community of Israel as a whole, but is not used with the technical sense of “church” as we have in the New Testament.**

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- **The universal church, sometimes called the invisible church, which is composed of all those who believe in Christ from the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2 until the Rapture of the Church in the future. In this usage all members are believers in Jesus Christ.**

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- The universal church, sometimes called the invisible church, which is composed of all those who believe in Christ from the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2 until the Rapture of the Church in the future. In this usage all members are believers in Jesus Christ.**
- The local church, which describes a specific gathering of Christians in a specific local church. In this usage, those who are identified with the local church are composed of both believers and unbelievers.**

3. The Christian Church is distinct from Israel.

4. Within the Church Universal, there is an organization with Christ as the head, or authority. Col. 1:18, 1:24; Ephesians 1:22–23.

Eph. 1:22, “And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,

Eph. 1:23, “which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”

5. Entry into the body of Christ occurs at the instant a person believes in Jesus Christ as Savior.

At that instant, God the Holy Spirit is used by Jesus Christ to identify the believer with His death, burial, and resurrection.

This identification is called the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

6. The body of Christ is described as having members.

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Rom. 12:4, “For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,

Rom. 12:5, “so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.”

1 Cor. 12:12, “For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.”

1 Cor. 12:14, “For in fact the body is not one member but many.”

John 14:15, “If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

John 15:10, “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.”

1 John 2:3, “Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.”

Titus 1:16, “They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.”

John 15:17, “These things I command you, that you love one another.”

1 Pet. 1:22, “Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,”

1 Pet. 4:8, “And above all things have fervent love for one another, for ‘love will cover a multitude of sins.’ ”