

THE FOUNDATIONS OF FELLOWSHIP

(Video Three)

Where the Church Fits In:

- The English word *church* translates a Greek word that means a _____ *gathering*. The church is a gathering of believers who have been called out of the world at large and into fellowship with God and his people.
- There are two manifestations or classifications of the church.

There is what is often called the _____ church which the New Testament calls it *the body of Christ* that includes all true believers in the world who are part of the body of Christ joined in a living union or what may be called an organism (Eph. 5:23-32; 1 Tim. 3:5; Heb. 12:23) . The church is God's central institution in this present age. The church has not replaced Israel in God's plan. All the promises God has made to his people, the nation of Israel, will be fulfilled when the church age comes to an end. The church is the manifestation of those called out by God in this age to serve him including both Jews and gentiles. All individual members of Fellowship Baptist Church are also part of the universal church or body of Christ.

There are also _____ churches that are a company of professed believers in a specific locality (1 Cor. 1:2; Gal. 1:2; Phil. 1:1). This is what is often called the organized church. The New Testament speaks in great detail about the proper organization and function of a local church. Fellowship Baptist Church is one of many local churches in the world.

Although some local churches are connected to an association or denomination encompassing many local churches, such an arrangement is not specified in the Bible. Fellowship Baptist Church has no denominational ties and is fully independent and self governing.

- The church as a worldwide body and as a local assembly

_____ in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost shortly after Christ's ascension (Acts 2:1-1-4; 2:41-47). The church did not exist prior to this and is not to be equated with the nation of Israel in the Old Testament.

- There are two offices within every biblically organized local church the primary office being that of a pastor.

The word *pastor* means _____ and emphasizes the pastor's teaching responsibility (1 pet. 5:2). It is translated *pastor* (Eph. 4:11) and *shepherd* (1 Pet. 5:4) in the New Testament.

Other words are also used in the New Testament to refer to the same office. In some cases the word _____ is used (1 Tim. 3:1). The Greek word translated *bishop* means *overseer* and it emphasizes the pastor's managerial authority. The word _____ is also used to refer to the pastoral office and emphasizes the spiritual maturity required for the office (1 Pet. 5:1). In some contexts all three functions and their synonymous nature are easily observed (Acts 20:17; 28; 1 Pet. 5:1-2).

The pastor's responsibility in the church is, first of all, to _____ the flock (Acts. 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:2). This is done by his teaching and preaching (Eph. 4:11-12).

Secondly, pastors are to _____ the church (1 Tim. 3:4-5; Heb. 13:7; 17). The word translated *rule* means to precede or go before and references the pastor's leadership role. It is this second responsibility that is most often overlooked. Some denominations have offices that are over the pastor and in some cases they misuse the term *bishop* to designate them. Other churches restrict the pastor's leadership role or give it wholly to the congregation.

The biblical pattern is to have _____ elders or pastors that give leadership to the church (Acts 13:1; 20:17; Heb. 13:7; 17). The church as a body has the responsibility to _____ their leaders (Acts 6:3-6; 14:23).