

Ekklesia in the New Testament

Ekklesia is used 118 times in the New Testament, translated *church* or *churches* 115 times, *assembly* 3 times, as follows:

I. Non-religious use of *church* (3 times).

Ac 19:32 Some therefore cried one thing, and some another: for the **assembly** was confused; and the more part knew not wherefore they were come together.

Ac 19:39 But if ye enquire any thing concerning other matters, it shall be determined in a lawful **assembly**.

Ac 19:41 And when he had thus spoken, he dismissed the **assembly**.

[*Ekklesia* was the common word for the lawful assembly in a free Greek city of all those possessing the rights of citizenship, for the transaction of public affairs. They were *called or summoned out of* the whole population, “a select portion of it, including neither the populace, nor strangers, nor yet those who had forfeited their civic rights” (Trench).]

II. Israel at Mount Sinai a *church* (1 time).

Ac 7:38 This is he, that was in the **church** in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and *with* our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:

[This passage provides no basis for the concept of an “Old Testament Church” that is parallel to the New Testament Church, as taught by Protestants. The Septuagint uses *ekklesia* for the Hebrew *qahal* (congregation or assembly), which may account for the use of the term *ekklesia* here.]

III. The church of the Lord Jesus Christ (114 times).

1. A local assembly or assemblies (101 times).

Mt 18:17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell *it* unto the **church**: but if he neglect to hear the **church**, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

Ac 2:47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the **church** daily such as should be saved.

Ac 5:11 And great fear came upon all the **church**, and upon as many as heard these things.

Ac 8:1 And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the **church** which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.

Ac 8:3 As for Saul, he made havock of the **church**, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed *them* to prison.

Ac 9:31 Then had the **churches** rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

Ac 11:22 Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the **church** which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch.

Ac 11:26 And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the **church**, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

Ac 12:1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth *his* hands to vex certain of the **church**.

Ac 12:5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the **church** unto God for him.

Ac 13:1 Now there were in the **church** that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

Ac 14:23 And when they had ordained them elders in every **church**, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

Ac 14:27 And when they were come, and had gathered the **church** together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.

Ac 15:3 And being brought on their way by the **church**, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren. 4 And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the **church**, and *of* the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them.

Ac 15:22 Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole **church**, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; *namely*, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren:

Ac 15:41 And he went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the **churches**.

Ac 16:5 And so were the **churches** established in the faith, and increased in number daily.

Ac 18:22 And when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up, and saluted the **church**, he went down to Antioch.

Ac 20:17 And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the **church**.

Ac 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the **church** of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

Ro 16:1 I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the **church** which is at Cenchrea:

Ro 16:4 Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the **churches** of the Gentiles. 5 Likewise *greet* the **church** that is in their house. Salute my wellbeloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ.

Ro 16:16 Salute one another with an holy kiss. The **churches** of Christ salute you.

Ro 16:23 Gaius mine host, and of the whole **church**, saluteth you. Erastus the chamberlain of the city saluteth you, and Quartus a brother.

Ro 16:27 To God only wise, *be* glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen. Written to the Romans from Corinthus, *and sent* by Phebe servant of the **church** at Cenchrea.

1Co 1:2 Unto the **church** of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called *to be* saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

1Co 4:17 For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every **church**.

1Co 6:4 If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the **church**.

1Co 7:17 But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all **churches**.

1Co 10:32 Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the **church** of God:

1Co 11:16 But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the **churches** of God.

1Co 11:18 For first of all, when ye come together in the **church**, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it.

1Co 11:22 What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the **church** of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise *you* not.

1Co 12:28 And God hath set some in the **church**, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

1Co 14:4 He that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the **church**. 5 I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater *is* he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the **church** may receive edifying.

1Co 14:12 Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual *gifts*, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the **church**.

1Co 14:19 Yet in the **church** I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that *by my voice* I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an *unknown* tongue.

1Co 14:23 If therefore the whole **church** be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in *those that are* unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?

1Co 14:28 But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the **church**; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

1Co 14:33 For God is not *the author* of confusion, but of peace, as in all **churches** of the saints.

1Co 14:34 Let your women keep silence in the **churches**: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but *they are commanded* to be under obedience, as also saith the law. 35 And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the **church**.

1Co 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the **church** of God.

1Co 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the **churches** of Galatia, even so do ye.

1Co 16:19 The **churches** of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the **church** that is in their house.

2Co 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy *our* brother, unto the **church** of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia:

2Co 8:1 Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the **churches** of Macedonia;

2Co 8:18 And we have sent with him the brother, whose praise *is* in the gospel throughout all the **churches**; 19 And not *that* only, but who was also chosen of the **churches** to travel with us with this grace, which is administered by us to the glory of the same Lord, and *declaration* of your ready mind:

2Co 8:23 Whether *any do enquire* of Titus, *he is* my partner and fellowhelper concerning you: or our brethren *be enquired of*, *they are* the messengers of the **churches**, *and* the glory of Christ. 24 Wherefore shew ye to them, and before the **churches**, the proof of your love, and of our boasting on your behalf.

2Co 11:8 I robbed other **churches**, taking wages *of them*, to do you service.

2Co 11:28 Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the **churches**.

2Co 12:13 For what is it wherein ye were inferior to other **churches**, except *it be* that I myself was not burdensome to you? forgive me this wrong.

Ga 1:2 And all the brethren which are with me, unto the **churches** of Galatia:

Ga 1:13 For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the **church** of God, and wasted it:

Ga 1:22 And was unknown by face unto the **churches** of Judaea which were in Christ:

Php 3:6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the **church**; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

Php 4:15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no **church** communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.

Col 4:15 Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the **church** which is in his house. 16 And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the **church** of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the *epistle* from Laodicea.

1Th 1:1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the **church** of the Thessalonians *which is* in God the Father and *in* the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1Th 2:14 For ye, brethren, became followers of the **churches** of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they *have* of the Jews:

2Th 1:1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the **church** of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

2Th 1:4 So that we ourselves glory in you in the **churches** of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

1Ti 3:5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the **church** of God?)

1Ti 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the **church** of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

1Ti 5:16 If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the **church** be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed.

2Ti 4:22 The Lord Jesus Christ *be* with thy spirit. Grace *be* with you. Amen. The second *epistle* unto Timotheus, ordained the first bishop of the **church** of the Ephesians, was written from Rome, when Paul was brought before Nero the second time.

Tit 3:15 All that are with me salute thee. Greet them that love us in the faith. Grace *be* with you all. Amen. It was written to Titus, ordained the first bishop of the **church** of the Cretians, from Nicopolis of Macedonia.

Phm 2 And to *our* beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellowsoldier, and to the **church** in thy house:

Heb 2:12 Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the **church** will I sing praise unto thee.

Jas 5:14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the **church**; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

3Jo 6 Which have borne witness of thy charity before the **church**: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well:

3Jo 9 I wrote unto the **church**: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. 10 Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth *them* out of the **church**.

Re 1:4 John to the seven **churches** which are in Asia: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

Re 1:11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send *it* unto the seven **churches** which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

Re 1:20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven **churches**: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven **churches**.

Re 2:1 Unto the angel of the **church** of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

Re 2:7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the **churches**; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Re 2:8 And unto the angel of the **church** in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

Re 2:11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the **churches**; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

Re 2:12 And to the angel of the **church** in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;

Re 2:17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the **churches**; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth *it*.

Re 2:18 And unto the angel of the **church** in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet *are* like fine brass;

Re 2:23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the **churches** shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

Re 2:29 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the **churches**.

Re 3:1 And unto the angel of the **church** in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

Re 3:6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the **churches**.

Re 3:7 And to the angel of the **church** in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

Re 3:13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the **churches**.

Re 3:14 And unto the angel of the **church** of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

Re 3:22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the **churches**.

Re 22:16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the **churches**. I am the root and the offspring of David, *and* the bright and morning star.

2. Institutionally, generically (11 times).

Mt 16:18 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.

Eph 1:22 And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the **church**, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Eph 3:10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly *places* might be known by the **church** the manifold wisdom of God,

Eph 3:21 Unto him *be* glory in the **church** by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the **church**: and he is the saviour of the body. 24 Therefore as the **church** is subject unto Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in every thing. 25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the **church**, and gave himself for it;

Eph 5:29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the **church**:

Eph 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the **church**.

Col 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the **church**: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.

Col 1:24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the **church**:

[This is the same way we speak of “the family” or “the state,” requiring locality when considered in any given instance. Cp. *the husband...the wife* in Eph. 5:23. There is no universal, invisible entity in view. Scripture teaches by precept and example that believers seek fellowship with other believers and join together in church capacity. The church of the New Testament is a functioning body, not a nebulous, philosophical notion.]

3. All of God's elect, redeemed, and called, who shall be one assembly in glory forever (2 times).

Eph 5:27 That he might present it to himself a glorious **church**, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Heb 12:23 To the general assembly and **church** of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,