

# A Church of First Love

## 1 Thessalonians 1:1

*Pastor Jim Sole*

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### A. The Church Defined Biblically: God's Perspective

1. The definition of the church: A called out assembly  
1 Thessalonians 1:1
  
2. The nature of the church: Relationships  
1 Thessalonians 1:1
  - a. Mutual spiritual growth and encouragement  
Romans 1:8-12
  
  - b. Mutual affection and encouragement  
Philippians 1:3-8
  
3. The Life of the church: Union and Communion  
1 Thessalonians 1:1, 1 John 1:3-4
  - a. Shepherd – sheep: Protected and provided for  
John 10:11-16; 27-30
  
  - b. Vine – branches: Alive and fruit bearing  
John 15:5
  
  - c. Family – members: United and investing  
1 Timothy 3:15
  
  - d. Head – body: Functional and directed  
Ephesians 4:9-16
  
  - e. Husband – wife: United and intimate  
Ephesians 5:22-27