

Church in the New Testament

The word *ekklesia* is used 118 times in the New Testament. It is 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**.

[It 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 *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. Religious use of *church* (115 times)

1. Historically, of the nation of Israel while assembled at Mount Sinai (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:

2. Specific local assemblies (87 times)

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 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 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:

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.

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.

3. *Church* institutionally (20 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.

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.

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

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.

Eph 1:22 And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the **church**,

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.

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**:

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.

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:

4. All of God's elect, which are one assembly in the mind of God, and shall be one assembly in their experience in glory forever (7 times)

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 5:27 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.

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**.

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,