

Amherst Baptist Church

September 29, 2019

The Creator's Design for the Church

What's in a Name:

Working Definition:

A New Testament church is a group of believers in Jesus Christ who assemble regularly and who are committed to one another to be the body of Christ together and to accomplish His mission in the world.

Principle #1: God Knows We Need to Assemble Together

- Genesis 1:26; Exodus 19:5-6; Deuteronomy 7:6; John 17:6-11
- Examples of the Godhead and the OT Nation of Israel

Principle #2: God the Father Prepared a Bride for His Son (Eph 5)

- Communion with God through His Son
- Corollary between Christ (Husband) and Church (Wife)

Principle #3: God Designed the Church for a Purpose (Acts 2)

- The Apostle's Teaching
- Fellowship
- Breaking of Bread
- Prayer

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Ephesians 5:22-27 (NKJV)

22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

Acts 2:40-47 (NKJV)

40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." 41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. 42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Notes: