



## WORD

<sup>19</sup>So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup>built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup>in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. **EPHESIANS 2:19-21**

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As Christians, we “believe in the holy catholic church” and “the communion of saints,” as written in the Apostles’ Creed. The church is not a building or something you just go to once or twice a week. It is both the universal body of Christ (“catholic”) and a community of people. In this lesson, we will look at three truths about the church.

## 1 Jesus is the builder of His church.

*“And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”*

**MATTHEW 16:18**

With so many beliefs people have about the church, it’s important to know the truth that Jesus is the builder and the only foundation of the church. The church is built on Christ, not built on personalities, traditions, or even activities. What is God’s promise for the church? (Matthew 16:18)

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## 2 The church is the body of Christ.

*Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.* **1 CORINTHIANS 12:27**

The church is a community of believers that encourage one another and build each other up. As members of Christ's body, we have an important role to play. God has given us different gifts in order to be fruitful in our church community. What are some of the gifts God has given us in the church? (1 Corinthians 12:27-31)

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## 3 The church is the bride of Christ.

*Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready . . .* **REVELATION 19:7**

The church is described as a bride, radiant, without wrinkle or blemish, holy and blameless (Ephesians 5:27). As Christ's bride, the church is set apart for Him. He pursues us, cares for us, and desires the best for us, His beloved. The kind of love that Jesus has for us provides the best definition of love—that He loved us unconditionally and sacrificed Himself for us. How do you think the bride of Christ makes herself ready for Him?

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## APPLICATION

- Are you part of a church community? Who is helping you grow in your spiritual life? Who are you helping to grow in God?
- What or who do you usually look to for assurance and security? How can you always be anchored in Christ and look to Him alone?
- What role are you fulfilling as a member of Christ's body? What do you think you can do to serve?

## PRAYER

- Thank God for the church, and that the gates of hell shall not prevail against the church.
- Pray for your local church, pastors, and leaders.
- Pray that our church will be a blessing to the community and we will continually reach lost people.



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