



59. The *church* over which Christ is the head (Ephesians 1:22; Ephesians 5:23)
60. The *church* that could know the manifold wisdom of God (Ephesians 3:10)
61. The *church* giving glory to the Lord (Ephesians 3:21)
62. The *church* to be subject unto Christ (Ephesians 5:24)
63. The *church* Christ loved (Ephesians 5:25)
64. The *church* to be presented to Christ (Ephesians 5:27)
65. The *church* nourished and cherished by Christ (Ephesians 5:29)
66. The *church* fellowshiping with Christ (Ephesians 5:32)
67. The *church* persecuted by Paul (Philippians 3:6)
68. The *church* communicating with Paul (Philippians 4:15)
69. The *church* which is Christ's body (Colossians 1:18, 24)
70. The *church* in the house of Nymphas (Colossians 4:15)
71. The *church* of the Laodiceans (Colossians 4:16)
72. The *church* of the Thessalonians (1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:1)
73. The *churches* in Judaea (1 Thessalonians 2:14)
74. The *churches* of God (2 Thessalonians 1:4)
75. The *church* of God (1 Timothy 3:5)
76. The *church* of the living God (1 Timothy 3:15)
77. The *church* not to be charged (1 Timothy 5:16)
78. The *church* in Philemon's house (Philemon 1:2)
79. The *church* where Christ would sing praise (Hebrews 2:12)
80. The *church* of the firstborn, written in heaven (Hebrews 12:23)
81. The *church* having elders who were to go and pray over the sick (James 5:14)
82. The *church* that is at Babylon (1 Peter 5:13)
83. The *church* witnessing Gaius' charity (3 John 1:6)
84. The *church* to which John wrote (3 John 1:9)
85. The *church* where good people were cast out by Diotrephes (3 John 1:10)
86. The *churches* in Asia (Revelation 1:4, 11, 20)
87. The *church* of Ephesus (Revelation 2:1)
88. The *churches* hearing the Spirit (Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; Revelation 3:6, 13, 22)
89. The *church* in Smyrna (Revelation 2:8)
90. The *church* in Pergamos (Revelation 2:12)
91. The *church* in Thyatira (Revelation 2:18)
92. The *churches* knowing that God searcheth the reins and hearts (Revelation 2:23)
93. The *church* in Sardis (Revelation 3:1)
94. The *church* in Philadelphia (Revelation 3:7)
95. The *church* of the Laodiceans (Revelation 3:14)
96. The *churches* where Jesus sent His angel to testify the truth of the Revelation (Revelation 22:16)



B. Concluding Thoughts

1. The local church
 - a. The majority of references to a church or to churches in the New Testament speak of a local body of believers.
 - b. Varying numbers are given, but many agree that at least ninety references are to a local body of believers or multiple local bodies of believers.
2. The universal church
 - a. Some refuse to believe in a universal body of believers, but rather refer to debatable scripture references as generic.
 - (1) In other words, these people, often known as local church only or even Baptist briders, would state that these references mean that that which is true of one New Testament Church is true of every New Testament Church.
 - (2) They would refer to such verses as Matthew 18:17; Acts 20:28; and 1 Timothy 3:5.
 - b. There are, however, some verses that identify the “church” as all who are saved.
3. The balance
 - a. The local church
 - (1) The focus of the New Testament is on a local visible body of believers.
 - (2) The apostle Paul had no trouble calling the believers at Corinth, “the body of Christ” (1 Corinthians 12:27).
 - (3) The Lord does His work in and through this means throughout the New Testament.
 - (4) Therefore, the concept of parachurch ministries (ministries operating outside of the local church and often across denominational lines) are unscriptural and should not be associated with biblical Christianity.
 - (5) That being said, when possible, churches should be started by churches. Missionaries should be sent by churches. Outreach should be accomplished by churches. Ministries should be founded within and controlled by churches.
 - b. The universal church
 - (1) This is mentioned in the New Testament, but is such a minority that it is obviously not intended to demonstrate God’s emphasis in this age.
 - (2) We know that it is viable, because just as Paul called the church at Corinth “the body of Christ”, he also included himself in that body (1 Corinthians 12:13) and he was certainly not a member at Corinth.
 - (3) This body has not met, nor will it meet until gathered in heaven. Technically, it then becomes a local assembly.