

Relating to Church

2019-08-11 by Ben Deaver at Tallgrass Church on Hebrews 10:24-25

Mingle Question: What does your ideal church look like?

- Write all your suggestions to make Tallgrass Church your ideal church and drop it in the black box back there!

The Global Leadership Summit 2019

Interview Lacey Dunn about her experience at The Global Leadership Summit 2019.

- What was the big highlight for you, Lacey?
- Would you encourage people to mark their calendars for August 6 and 7, 2020 for the next Global Leadership Summit?
- Ok, encourage them!

Relating Sermon Series

Relating to... Word Cloud List: Soul/Self, God, Scripture, Disciples, Friends, Technology, Past, Culture, Sexuality, Enemy, Money, Neighbors, **Church**, Earth, Body, Politics, Family, Work

Relating to Church

First Google Image for “church”. So we’re talking about Relating to a Church Building?!?!

- “Church” is from Old English *cir(i)ce*, *cyr(i)ce*, related to Dutch *kerk* and German *Kirche*, based on medieval Greek *kurikon*, from Greek *kuriakon* (*dōma*) ‘Lord’s (house)’, from *kurios* ‘master or lord’.

Google Definition for “church” (from Oxford)

1. a building used for public Christian worship. "they came to church with me"
 - a. synonyms: house of God, the Lord's house, house of prayer; kirk "a village church"
2. a particular Christian organization, typically one with its own clergy, buildings, and distinctive doctrines. "the Church of England"
 - a. synonyms: denomination, sect, creed; faith "the Methodist Church"
3. the hierarchy of clergy of a Christian organization, especially the Roman Catholic Church or the Church of England.
4. institutionalized religion as a political or social force. "the separation of church and state"

I’m excited about this time together talking about Relating to Church. Excited for a few reasons:

- I like you guys. In fact, I love this church. Those of you that I’m already close to and get along great with, I love that. That’s awesome. Those of you that I don’t know that well or don’t connect with as easily or maybe don’t even get along with as well, then there’s great potential and opportunity for good things to happen in our relationship in the weeks, months, and years ahead, and that’s wonderful.
- Last week I mentioned how the church relationships, the one another-ing within the church seems to proceed the other social roles mentioned in Paul’s letter typically.
 - For example, in Ephesians there’s all this one another-ing stuff, then the social roles or relating, like marriage and parenting and work but even when talking about marriage Paul’s like, “I’m actually talking about the church...but it applies to marriage too!”

- Grace! We have this thing called grace.
- The Spirit! We have this thing called the Spirit of God.

Relating to Ekklesia

- "the called out ones"; usually referring to a local assembly of Jesus-followers
- "in Christ"
- Mystical Union
- Church Membership
- Attack on the church is an attack on Jesus
 - **Acts 9:4-5** ⁴ And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" ⁵ And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.

Recommended Resources

Please turn to page ??? in your ESV giveaway Bible! Just don't go reading verse 26, whatever you do.

Hebrews 10:24-25

PRAY!

And let us consider...

The big verb today is to CONSIDER! κατανοῶμεν (katanoōmen) Strong's Greek 2657

Consider—think carefully about (something), typically before making a decision. Examine! Considering takes time! What's the last thing you really considered? What to watch on Netflix? Where to eat for lunch?

And let us consider what?

...how to stir up (spur on—NIV) one another to love and good works...

Much thought and consideration need go into how to stir up one another to love and good works.

How to stir up, spur on, how to poke and prod, little jabs!

- **Illus:** At Konza Strength, the coach gives me a little poke in the side to help me tighten up to increase my capacity.
- Not a punch in the face, but a little jab in the side.
- We want Tallgrass Church to be a place where you can come and be spurred on, stirred up to love and good works. We want iron to sharpen iron here (Proverbs 27:17)!

Let me give you a few examples:

- Sermon prep is considering, paid consideration.
- Encourage—Giving that encouraging word—“That comment you made last week in LIFE Group has really stuck with me. Thanks!”
- Exhort—Speaking the truth in love—“I’ve been praying about when to talk to you about this. I’ve noticed that you use a lot of sarcasm. I’m wondering what’s underneath.”
- Kind Word (Lifting the weary)—“You’ve been heavy on my heart this week. Is everything alright? Would you like to grab lunch?”
 - **Isaiah 50:4 (Berean Study Bible)** The Lord GOD has given Me the tongue of discipleship, to sustain the weary with a word. He awakens Me morning by morning; He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple.
- Non-verbal Affirmation—Considering how you might encourage with your non-verbal engagement. Some of us really need to work on our non-verbal affirmation. I’m just saying.
- Engaging specific people or groups of people—Considering how you may specifically encourage a kid in Sprouts or a teen in TGY. What’s TGY? Tallgrass Youth! Get down on eye level with a four year old and ask them what they’re learning in Sprouts.
- Generosity—Considering how you can spur on our whole church through your giving. The New Testament model for giving is intentional, sacrificial giving. You’re supposed to consider what you’ll give so you don’t give under compulsion.
- Good works—“What’s the latest with the neighbor you told me about last week? Have you taken that step you said you were going to take to serve them? How can I help you take that step? When are you going to do that? Alright then, gettir done!”
- Using technology to stir up one another to love and good works

Let’s take a minute to consider how to stir up one another to love and good works! Just jot down as many ideas as you can...quickly. Ready, go!

...not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

L.I.F.E.

Acts 2:42-47

Who sees the LIFE Group acrostic in there?

What was so special about those people and that period?

- Holy Spirit filled
- Mere human beings
 - **James 5:17 (NLT)** Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years!
- Scads of neighbors who didn’t know God
- God was God
- Wild and immoral culture

Meeting together *day by day*?!?!? Isn’t that what cults do?

Isn’t this weird?!?!? Hangin’ with your church friends everyday?!?!?

What is weird?

- Binge watching shows
 - Have y'all been binge watching my old sermon series again?
 - Maybe we should binge church!
- Babylon Bee and church!!!
- Spending days and nights without meaningful human relating
- Living in a sea of people who have no idea what's really happening in our lives
- Never having experienced actual intimacy with a community of people
- Feeling like superficial banter or tweeting to a screen is "being friends" with others
- Technology is leading us to increasingly individualized experiences that used to be shared with other human beings!
 - Multiple different screens in the same house, the same room, but everyone's watching something different. People opting for the at home sportsball experience over showing up to the stadium because the view is better and the beer is cheaper.
 - "In 2017 alone, an average U.S. consumer spent 238 minutes (3h 58min) daily watching TV." *"U.S. media usage - time spent watching television 2020 | Statista". Statista. Retrieved 29 November 2018.*
- Sees nothing odd about playing the same video game over and over hundreds of times...
- Wouldn't think of missing a time at the gym...
- Might belong to several sports leagues...
- Might have their kids in several sports leagues...
- Wearing shirts with pink flamingos on it...now that's weird!

Meeting together *all the more* as the Day draws near! So meeting together and encouraging one another all the more, more perhaps than the early church?!?! What? Crazy! Yeah, this is a good way to be crazy!

- Frequency of meeting together and/or intensity of consider how to stir one another up and/or encouraging one another should happen all the more as the Day draws near, the Day of Jesus' return. I can promise you one thing, every day the return of Jesus gets closer!
- Do we have more or less time to meet together than the early Christians?
- I'm preaching to the choir right now because you are here!

What *doesn't* bring change? Fear, Facts, Force

What *does* bring change?

1. Relate (new communities)
2. Repeat (new practices)
3. Reframe (new ways of thinking)

Two Church Paradigms

- What if I, the Lead Pastor of Tallgrass Church, quit showing up regularly to Central Gathering? Would that be ok? Why not? Because you pay me to be here and preach. Why is it ok if YOU don't show up regularly to Central Gathering? Because of the Clergy / Laity divide! That's why!
- You have a vital role to play in this church. If you're struggling to find that role then let's chat.
- Consider, stir up one another, and that's not even the end game, then go out and love and do good works in your neighborhoods!

...to meet together...

CG, LIFE Group, study with 3-5 guys/gals, be discipled, disciple someone, spiritual friendships, prayer gatherings (because why not?)

Central Gathering as Feature Film

- This analogy breaks down immediately...but I thought of it and I'm gonna share it. Central Gathering as a weekly feature movie! Think of Central Gathering like going to a movie – previews are announcements, then refill your refreshments, then presentation, then singing, then stick around to see if there's a little glimpse of what's next after the credits—i.e. hangout!
- How much time do you carve out if you're going to go see a movie? Movie (120 min) + plus drive time (10 min) + snacks time (10 min) + previews (15 min) + credits (5 min) + hook thingy (1 min) + quick debrief with who you came with (2 min) + bathroom (3 min) + drive home (10 min) = 176 min (not quite three hours)
 - Central Gathering starts at 4pm next week! What might it look like to show up at 3:45pm so you have plenty of time to get coffee and settle in, say "Hi!" to someone you see that you know, find a good seat near the front and in the middle, engage in CG, then stick around to see what happens, or better yet, be thinking during CG "How can I make the most of the first 3 minutes right after we finish Central Gathering?" or better still, show up at CG already having considered how to make the most of the time together! Why not sing your heart out? Insecurity? Can't sing? Boredom?
- Consider how to stir up folks to love and good works at Central Gathering!
 - If they don't show up then text them, "Missed you at CG. I was hoping to connect with you to invite you to _____. Or to encourage you to _____. Or to talk with you about _____."

LIFE Group as Hospital for the Hurting—More specifics on these in two weeks!

Ideal Week

Meet Together Calendar—CG, LIFE Group, study with 3-5 guys/gals, be discipled, disciple someone, spiritual friendships, prayer gatherings (because why not?) (15 hours total).

- Remember, average TV consumption in the U.S. per person is almost 28 hours weekly.
- Steal some time from something weird you do that you need to scale back on.

What prevents us from having this same experience today?

- God?
- Apathy?
- Cynicism?
- Individualism?
- Materialism?
- Preoccupation?
- Boredom?

My story with church:

- Aloneness
- Desire for depth and consistency heading into college
- *Houses That Change The World* by Wolfgang Simson
- The Navigators—discipleship
- Emmanuel Household Seminary—hospitality
- Xenos Christian Fellowship and the Xenos Summer Institute—Engaging a hostile world graciously and compellingly. Actually knowing the Scriptures...and seeking to live them out!
- LIFE Group coleader: "I'm not a pastor." Yet he was shepherding a house church that was larger than his dad's church.

Hebrews 10:19-23

- The Gospel
- Gospel Relating—And let us consider...

Hebrews 10:26

Grace Motivation vs. Law Motivation

- Under law motivation—Law may get you to show up to meet what you consider the bare minimum requirement to make God happy and alleviate your guilty conscience. However, if you're not doing good enough then you may be too ashamed to show up.
- Under grace motivation—You understand that you are a new creation no matter what, so you are eager to show up, not to get God and/or others off your back, but to learn, grow, serve, and enjoy your church family.

And then after we meet together we go out and love and do good works! The goal isn't just to consider and then to meet up to stir one another up. The goal is to then go and love in our neighborhoods!

Reflection Questions / Action Steps:

1. When have you not neglected meeting with the church and it's been worth it? *Repeat.*
2. When will you consider how to stir up the brethren and sistren to love and good works? *Now consider...*
3. When have you been poked to love or good works? *Now poke someone else!*
4. What's your next *scary* step towards meeting together all the more as the return of Christ approaches? *Take that step!* (What *weird* thing do you do that could be scaled back for more meeting together more? *Scale that back!*)

Q&R&Testimonies

Quote from *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Pray

The Chopping Block:

Tallgrass Hymnal

Because He Lives
 How Deep the Father's Love
 Jesus Paid it All
 Mystery of Faith
 Nothing But the Blood
 So Will I
 Rock of Ages
 I Surrender All
 I Have Decided to Follow Jesus
 Take Courage
 Yes and Amen
 Way Maker
 Blessed Assurance
 Come Thou Fount
 Behold Our God
 Joy
 Joy of the Lord
 New Wine
 Though You Slay Me
 What a Friend We Have in Jesus
 Come Thou Fount
 How Great Thou Art
 Jesus We Love You
 No Longer Slaves
 Reckless Love
 Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus
 I'll Fly Away
 You Are My Joy
 Jesus Loves Me
 Surrounded (Fight My Battles)
 Good, Good Father
 Raise A Hallelujah
 Benediction
 The Benediction

***Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer:**

- “It is not simply to be taken for granted that the Christian has the privilege of living among other Christians. Jesus Christ lived in the midst of his enemies. At the end all his disciples deserted him. On the Cross he was utterly alone, surrounded by evildoers and mockers. For this cause he had come, to bring peace to the enemies of God. So the Christian, too, belongs not in the seclusion of a cloistered life but in the thick of foes. There is his commission, his work. ‘The Kingdom is to be in the midst of your enemies. And he who will not suffer this does not want to be of the Kingdom of Christ; he wants to be among friends, to sit among roses and lilies, not with the bad people but the devout people. O you blasphemers and betrayers of Christ! If Christ had done what you are doing who would ever have been spared?’ (Luther).” (pp. 17-18)

- “‘I will sow them among the people: and they shall remember me in far countries’ (Zech. 10:9). According to God’s will Christendom is a scattered people, scattered like seed ‘into all the kingdoms of the earth’ (Deut. 28:25). That is its curse and its promise. God’s people must dwell in far countries among the unbelievers, but it will be the seed of the Kingdom of God in all the world.” (p. 18)
- “The physical presence of other Christians is a source of incomparable joy and strength to the believer.” (p. 19)
- “Christianity means community through Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ. No Christian community is more or less than this. Whether it be a brief, single encounter or the daily fellowship of years, Christian community is only this. We belong to one another only through and in Jesus Christ. What does this mean? It means, first, that a Christian needs others because of Jesus Christ. It means, second, that a Christian comes to others only through Jesus Christ. It means, third, that in Jesus Christ we have been chosen from eternity, accepted in time, and united for eternity.” (p. 21)
- “The Christ in his own heart is weaker than the Christ in the word of his brother; his own heart is uncertain, his brother’s is sure. And that also clarifies the goal of all Christian community: they meet one another as bringers of the message of salvation. As such, God permits them to meet together and gives them community. Their fellowship is founded solely upon Jesus Christ and this ‘alien righteousness.’ All we can say, therefore, is: the community of Christians springs solely from the Biblical and Reformation message of the justification of man through grace alone; this alone is the basis of the longing of Christians for one another.” (p. 23)
- “Those who love their dream of a Christian community more than they love the Christian community itself become destroyers of that Christian community even though their personal intentions may be ever so honest, earnest and sacrificial. God hates this wishful dreaming because it makes the dreamer proud and pretentious. Those who dream of this idolized community demand that it be fulfilled by God, by others and by themselves. They enter the community of Christians with their demands set up by their own law, and judge one another and God accordingly. It is not we who build. Christ builds the church. Whoever is mindful to build the church is surely well on the way to destroying it, for he will build a temple to idols without wishing or knowing it. We must confess, he builds. We must proclaim, he builds. We must pray to him, and he will build. We do not know his plan. We cannot see whether he is building or pulling down. It may be that the times which by human standards are the times of collapse are for him the great times of construction. It may be that the times which from a human point are great times for the church are times when it’s pulled down. It is a great comfort which Jesus gives to his church. You confess, preach, bear witness to me, and I alone will build where it pleases me. Do not meddle in what is not your providence. Do what is given to you, and do it well, and you will have done enough.... Live together in the forgiveness of your sins. Forgive each other every day from the bottom of your hearts.”
- “God hates visionary dreaming; it makes the dreamer proud and pretentious. The man who fashions a visionary ideal of community demands that it be realized by God, by others, and by himself. He enters the community of Christians with his demands, sets up his own law, and judges the brethren and God Himself accordingly. He stands adamant, a living reproach to all others in the circle of brethren. He acts as if he is the creator of Christian community, as if his dream binds men together. When things do not go his way, he calls the effort a failure. When his ideal picture is destroyed, he sees the community going to smash. So he becomes, first an accuser of his brethren, then an accuser of God, and finally the despairing accuser of himself.” (pp. 27-28)
- “Even when sin and misunderstanding burden the communal life, is not the sinning brother still a brother, with whom I, too, stand under the Word of Christ? Will not his sin be a constant occasion for me to give thanks that both of us may live in the forgiving love of God in Christ Jesus? Thus the very hour of disillusionment with my brother becomes incomparable salutary, because it so thoroughly teaches me that neither of us can ever live by our own words and deeds, but only by that one Word and Deed which really binds us together—the forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ. When the morning mists of dreams vanish, then dawns the bright day of Christian fellowship.” (p. 28)
- “A pastor should not complain about his congregation, certainly never to other people, but also not to God. A congregation has not been entrusted to him in order that he should become its accuser before God and men.” (p. 29)

- “When a person becomes alienated from a Christian community in which he has been placed and begins to raise complaints about it, he had better examine himself first to see whether the trouble is not due to his wish dream that should be shattered by God; and if this be the case, let him thank God for leading him into this predicament.” (p. 30)
- “Christian brotherhood is not an ideal which we must realize; it is rather a reality created by God in Christ in which we may participate. The more clearly we learn to recognize that the ground and strength and promise of all our fellowship is in Jesus Christ alone, the more serenely shall we think of our fellowship and pray and hope for it.” (p. 30)
- “Because spiritual love does not desire (eros) but rather serves, it loves an enemy as a brother. It originates neither in the brother nor in the enemy but in Christ and his Word. Human love can never understand spiritual love, for spiritual love is from above; it is something completely strange, new, and incomprehensible to all earthly love.” (p. 35)
- “Speak to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs...” (p. 59)
- “Let him who cannot be alone beware of community... Let him who is not in community beware of being alone.” (p. 77)

Strong's Greek: 2657. κατανοέω (katanoeó) — 14 Occurrences

Matthew 7:3 V-PIA-2S

GRK: δοκὸν οὐ κατανοεῖς

NAS: eye, *but do not notice* the log

KJV: eye, but *considerest* not the beam

INT: beam not *notice*

Luke 6:41 V-PIA-2S

GRK: ὀφθαλμῷ οὐ κατανοεῖς

NAS: eye, *but do not notice* the log

KJV: eye, but *perceivest* not the beam

INT: eye not *notice*

Luke 12:24 V-AMA-2P

GRK: κατανοήσατε τοὺς κόρακας

NAS: *Consider* the ravens, for they neither

KJV: *Consider* the ravens: for

INT: *Consider* the ravens

Luke 12:27 V-AMA-2P

GRK: κατανοήσατε τὰ κρίνα

NAS: *Consider* the lilies, how

KJV: *Consider* the lilies how

INT: *Consider* the lilies

Luke 20:23 V-APA-NMS

GRK: κατανοήσας δὲ αὐτῶν

NAS: *But He detected* their trickery

KJV: But *he perceived* their craftiness,

INT: *having perceived* however of them

Acts 7:31 V-ANA

GRK: δὲ αὐτοῦ **κατανοῆσαι** ἐγένετο φωνή
NAS: and as he approached *to look [more] closely*, there came
KJV: drew near *to behold [it]*, the voice
INT: moreover he *to behold [it]* there was a voice

Acts 7:32 V-ANA

GRK: οὐκ ἐτόλμα **κατανοῆσαι**
NAS: and would not venture *to look*.
KJV: and durst not *behold*.
INT: not he dared *examine [it]*

Acts 11:6 V-IIA-1S

GRK: ἦν ἀτενίσας **κατενόουν** καὶ εἶδον
NAS: and when I had fixed my gaze *on it and was observing* it I saw
KJV: when I had fastened mine eyes, *I considered*, and
INT: which having looked intently *I considered* and saw

Acts 27:39 V-IIA-3P

GRK: δέ τινα **κατενόουν** ἔχοντα αἰγιαλὸν
NAS: the land; *but they did observe* a bay
KJV: but *they discovered* a certain
INT: however a certain *they noticed* having a shore

Romans 4:19 V-AIA-3S

GRK: τῇ πίστει **κατενόησεν** τὸ ἑαυτοῦ
NAS: in faith *he contemplated* his own
KJV: in faith, *he considered* not
INT: in the faith *he considered* of himself

Hebrews 3:1 V-AMA-2P

GRK: ἐπουρανίου μέτοχοι **κατανοήσατε** τὸν ἀπόστολον
NAS: calling, *consider* Jesus,
KJV: calling, *consider* the Apostle
INT: heavenly partakers *consider* the apostle

Hebrews 10:24 V-PSA-1P

GRK: καὶ **κατανοῶμεν** ἀλλήλους εἰς
NAS: *and let us consider* how to stimulate
KJV: And *let us consider* one another to
INT: and *we should consider* one another for

James 1:23 V-PPA-DMS

GRK: ἔοικεν ἀνδρὶ **κατανοοῦντι** τὸ πρόσωπον
NAS: a man *who looks* at his natural
KJV: unto a man *beholding* his
INT: is like to a man *considering* the face

[James 1:24 V-AIA-3S](#)

GRK: κατενόησεν γὰρ ἑαυτὸν

NAS: *for [once] he has looked* at himself

KJV: For *he beholdeth* himself, and

INT: *he considered* indeed himself

Church

Matthew 16:18

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.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

Matthew 18:17

If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the **church**. And if he refuses to listen even to the **church**, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

Acts 5:11

And great fear came upon the whole **church** and upon all who heard of these things.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

Acts 8:1

[*Saul Ravages the Church*] And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the **church** in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

Acts 8:3

But Saul was ravaging the **church**, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

Acts 9:31

So the **church** throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

Acts 11:1

[*Peter Reports to the Church*] Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

Acts 11:19

[*The Church in Antioch*] Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

Acts 11:22

The report of this came to the ears of the **church** in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

Acts 11:26

and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the **church** and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

Acts 12:1

[*James Killed and Peter Imprisoned*] About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the **church**.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Acts 12:5

So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the **church**.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Acts 13:1

[*Barnabas and Saul Sent Off*] Now there were in the **church** at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Acts 14:23

And when they had appointed elders for them in every **church**, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Acts 14:27

And when they arrived and gathered the **church** together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Acts 15:3

So, being sent on their way by the **church**, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Acts 15:4

When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the **church** and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Acts 15:22

[*The Council's Letter to Gentile Believers*] Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole **church**, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brothers,

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Acts 15:41

And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the **churches**.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Acts 16:5

So the **churches** were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Acts 18:22

When he had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the **church**, and then went down to Antioch.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Acts 20:17

[*Paul Speaks to the Ephesian Elders*] Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the **church** to come to him.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Acts 20:28

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the **church** of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Romans 16:1

[*Personal Greetings*] I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the **church** at Cenchreae,

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Romans 16:4

who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks but all the **churches** of the Gentiles give thanks as well.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Romans 16:5

Greet also the **church** in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who was the first convert to Christ in Asia.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Romans 16:16

Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the **churches** of Christ greet you.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Romans 16:23

Gaius, who is host to me and to the whole **church**, greets you. Erastus, the city treasurer, and our brother Quartus, greet you.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

1 Corinthians 1:2

To the **church** of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

1 Corinthians 1:10

[*Divisions in the Church*] I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

1 Corinthians 3:1

[*Divisions in the Church*] But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

1 Corinthians 4:17

That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every **church**.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

1 Corinthians 5:1

[*Sexual Immorality Defiles the Church*] It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

1 Corinthians 5:12

For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the **church** whom you are to judge?

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

1 Corinthians 6:4

So if you have such cases, why do you lay them before those who have no standing in the **church**?

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

1 Corinthians 7:17

[*Live as You Are Called*] Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the **churches**.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

1 Corinthians 10:32

Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the **church** of God,

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

1 Corinthians 11:16

If anyone is inclined to be contentious, we have no such practice, nor do the **churches** of God.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

1 Corinthians 11:18

For, in the first place, when you come together as a **church**, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part,

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

1 Corinthians 11:22

What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the **church** of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

1 Corinthians 12:28

And God has appointed in the **church** first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

1 Corinthians 14:4

The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the **church**.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

1 Corinthians 14:5

Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the **church** may be built up.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

1 Corinthians 14:12

So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the **church**.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

1 Corinthians 14:19

Nevertheless, in **church** I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

1 Corinthians 14:23

If, therefore, the whole **church** comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds?

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

1 Corinthians 14:28

But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in **church** and speak to himself and to God.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

1 Corinthians 14:33

For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. As in all the **churches** of the saints,

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

1 Corinthians 14:34

the women should keep silent in the **churches**. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

1 Corinthians 14:35

If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in **church**.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

1 Corinthians 15:9

For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the **church** of God.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

1 Corinthians 16:1

[*The Collection for the Saints*] Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the **churches** of Galatia, so you also are to do.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

1 Corinthians 16:19

[*Greetings*] The **churches** of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the **church** in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

2 Corinthians 1:1

[*Greeting*] Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the **church** of God that is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia:

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

2 Corinthians 8:1

[*Encouragement to Give Generously*] We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the **churches** of Macedonia,

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

2 Corinthians 8:18

With him we are sending the brother who is famous among all the **churches** for his preaching of the gospel.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

2 Corinthians 8:19

And not only that, but he has been appointed by the **churches** to travel with us as we carry out this act of grace that is being ministered by us, for the glory of the Lord himself and to show our good will.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

2 Corinthians 8:23

As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker for your benefit. And as for our brothers, they are messengers of the **churches**, the glory of Christ.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

2 Corinthians 8:24

So give proof before the **churches** of your love and of our boasting about you to these men.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

2 Corinthians 11:8

I robbed other **churches** by accepting support from them in order to serve you.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

2 Corinthians 11:28

And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the **churches**.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

2 Corinthians 12:11

[*Concern for the Corinthian Church*] I have been a fool! You forced me to it, for I ought to have been commended by you. For I was not at all inferior to these super-apostles, even though I am nothing.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

2 Corinthians 12:13

For in what were you less favored than the rest of the **churches**, except that I myself did not burden you? Forgive me this wrong!

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Galatians 1:2

and all the brothers who are with me, To the **churches** of Galatia:

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Galatians 1:13

For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the **church** of God violently and tried to destroy it.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Galatians 1:22

And I was still unknown in person to the **churches** of Judea that are in Christ.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Ephesians 1:22

And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the **church**,

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Ephesians 3:10

so that through the **church** the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Ephesians 3:21

to him be glory in the **church** and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Ephesians 5:23

For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the **church**, his body, and is himself its Savior.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Ephesians 5:24

Now as the **church** submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Ephesians 5:25

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the **church** and gave himself up for her,

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Ephesians 5:27

so that he might present the **church** to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Ephesians 5:29

For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the **church**,

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Ephesians 5:32

This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the **church**.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Philippians 3:6

as to zeal, a persecutor of the **church**; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Philippians 4:15

And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no **church** entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Colossians 1:18

And he is the head of the body, the **church**. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Colossians 1:24

[*Paul's Ministry to the Church*] Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the **church**,

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Colossians 4:15

Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the **church** in her house.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Colossians 4:16

And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the **church** of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

1 Thessalonians 1:1

[*Greeting*] Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the **church** of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

1 Thessalonians 2:14

For you, brothers, became imitators of the **churches** of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. For you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews,

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

2 Thessalonians 1:1

[*Greeting*] Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the **church** of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

2 Thessalonians 1:4

Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the **churches** of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

1 Timothy 3:5

for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's **church**?

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

1 Timothy 3:15

if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the **church** of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

1 Timothy 5:1

[*Instructions for the Church*] Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers,

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

1 Timothy 5:16

If any believing woman has relatives who are widows, let her care for them. Let the **church** not be burdened, so that it may care for those who are truly widows.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Philemon 1:2

and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the **church** in your house:

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

James 5:14

Is anyone among you sick? 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.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

3 John 1:6

who testified to your love before the **church**. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

3 John 1:9

I have written something to the **church**, but Diotrephes, who likes to put himself first, does not acknowledge our authority.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

3 John 1:10

So if I come, I will bring up what he is doing, talking wicked nonsense against us. And not content with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers, and also stops those who want to and puts them out of the **church**.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Revelation 1:4

[*Greeting to the Seven Churches*] John to the seven **churches** that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Revelation 1:11

saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven **churches**, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Revelation 1:20

As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven **churches**, and the seven lampstands are the seven **churches**.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Revelation 2:1

[*To the Church in Ephesus*]

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Revelation 2:7

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the **churches**. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Revelation 2:8

[*To the Church in Smyrna*] "And to the angel of the **church** in Smyrna write: 'The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Revelation 2:11

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the **churches**. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.'

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Revelation 2:12

[*To the Church in Pergamum*] "And to the angel of the **church** in Pergamum write: 'The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Revelation 2:17

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the **churches**. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.'

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Revelation 2:18

[*To the Church in Thyatira*] "And to the angel of the **church** in Thyatira write: 'The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Revelation 2:23

and I will strike her children dead. And all the **churches** will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Revelation 2:29

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the **churches**.'

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Revelation 3:1

[*To the Church in Sardis*] "'I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

Revelation 3:6

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the **churches**.'

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

Revelation 3:7

[*To the **Church** in Philadelphia*] “And to the angel of the **church** in Philadelphia write: ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

Revelation 3:13

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the **churches.**’

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

Revelation 3:14

[*To the **Church** in Laodicea*] “And to the angel of the **church** in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

Revelation 3:22

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the **churches.**”

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

Revelation 22:16

“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the **churches**. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)