

Ecclesia

The koinonia Greek word for 'church' is translated from 'ek'- 'out from' (similar to our word 'exit') and kaleo- 'called'. Together they mean 'called out' and 'assembled together'.

"Called Out With a Message"

So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:6-8

Acts 2:1- *When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.*

2- *Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.*

3- *They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.*

4- *All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*

5- *Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.*

6- *When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language.*

7- *Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans?"*

8- *Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language?...*

12- *Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"*

13- *Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."*

14- *Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.*

15- *These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning!*

16- *No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:*

17- *"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.*

18- *Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.*

19- *I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.*

20- *The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.*

21- *And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'*

22- *"Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.*

23- *This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men,^[d] put him to death by nailing him to the cross.*

24- *But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him...*

33- *Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear...*

36- *"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."*

37- *When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"*

38- *Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

39- *The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."*

40- *With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."*

41- *Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.*

42- *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*

43- *Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.*

44- *All the believers were together and had everything in common.*

Additional Notes on the Church:

The purpose of the Church is to reflect the Glory of God in a fallen world:

"All of God's works exist ultimately to ascribe glory to Him. The Glory of God is nothing less than the nature of God revealed in His creation and acts. To speak of God's goal for the church as His glory is simply to say that God intends to display Himself in and through His church."

The Mission of the Church, Dr. Robert Saucy

'Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.' The Westminster shorter catechism

The Church reflects God's Glory through several important expressions:

Public Worship: His people coming together to bring praise and glory to God

Observation of Baptism and The Lord's Supper: Celebration of the regular practices of Baptism and The Lord's Supper instituted and modeled by Jesus

Teaching: The Declaration of Doctrine/Truth: The Church is the pillar and foundation of the truth. Teaching is to move God's people to maturity

Fellowship and Accountability: Emphasis on the Church gathered - joining together for mutual edification, encouragement and strengthening. Elders are to be overseers of the Life of the Church.

Outreach: Local, regional and worldwide evangelism: Strategically carrying the mission of the Good News of Jesus to a broken and lost world