

Real Christians Love the Church

Selected Scripture



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The NT Uses of *Ekklesia* or Church

- 1) The Universal Church
 - a) *Visible* – the universal church as we see it, including both true believers and false believers.
 - b) *Invisible* – the universal church as God sees it, including only true believers.
- 2) Local Churches

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I. Why Real Christians Love the Church

- A. The church, along with Christ Himself, is at the center of God's plan of the ages.
- B. The church is God's family.
- C. The church is God's dwelling place.
- D. The church is the only entity on earth under Christ's immediate, loving leadership.
- E. The church is the supreme object of Christ's love.

I. Why Real Christians Love the Church

- F. The church was the purpose behind His death.
- G. The church is being cleansed and purified by Christ Himself.
- H. The church is the primary reason Jesus will return.
- I. Most of the NT was written to local churches and their leaders.
- J. The church is the only entity Christ promised to build.

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II. How Real Christians Love the Church

- A. Belong to a local church.
- B. Make the church your priority.
- C. Serve faithfully in the church.
- D. Build relationships in the church.
- E. Share your passion for the Lord and His church by evangelizing.

Five Simple Tests of Your Commitment to the Church

- 1) Have you officially connected yourself to a local church?
- 2) Is your church the center of yours and your family's life?
- 3) Do you faithfully attend the corporate worship of the church?
- 4) Are you faithfully involved in a smaller group where you practice the "one anothers" of the NT?
- 5) Do you faithfully exercise your spiritual giftedness in the church?