



Calvary Evangelical Baptist Church
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Dr. Allen R. McFarland
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Phil 1:1-2

Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
NKJV

❖ THE DESCRIPTION OF THE CHURCH

- **Body**
- **Bride**
- **Building**
- **Family**
- **Fruit (Garden/vine)**
- **Fellowship**
- **Priesthood**

❖ THE DEFINITION OF THE CHURCH

The Church (ecclesia) is a called out group of born again baptized believers in Jesus Christ.

Dr. Elmer Towns states in his book "Theology for Today," "The word ecclesia comes from the Greek preposition "out" and the Greek verb "to call." Hence, the church is made up of those who are called out. This has a twofold meaning: (1) they are called out from the world and their previous ungodly life-style, (2) They are called together for a purpose. This purpose is to carry out the Great Commission."

Matt 16:17-19

17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My

Father who is in heaven. 18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

NKJV

Due to the fact that Jesus Christ is the founder and head of the Church, it is both an organism and an organization.

❖ **THE DESTINATION OF THE CHURCH**

Matt 28:19-20

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

NKJV

When do you join a church?

- a. You get saved
- b. You move
- c. You get married
- d. The Spirit of the Lord has moved the Church to send you away to another work.
- e. You know the Word is being preached there.
- f. You continue to be encouraged to grow in the Word and in the Lord
- g. Help you to be a better person
- h. This is where Family/friends are growing in the Lord
- i. Pastor's family and reputation lines up with Scriptures
- j. Pastor's personality agrees with your spirit
- k. Pastor is touchable (authentic, real)
- l. You believe that the Pastor cares for your soul
- m. Your spirit agrees with the Spirit of the Lord
- n. There is a sweet spirit in the church
- o. Children's program meets your needs
- p. Music/Choir satisfies your soul
- q. People genuinely care for you
- r. You sense that there is an opportunity for involvement
- s. Church has a good reputation in the community

Many reasons why people leave churches

- a. When you die
- b. When you move or have been transferred
- c. When the Church does not carry out the Great commission
- d. They feel that Music/Choir is inadequate
- e. Children's program is insufficient for the family
- f. Pastor falls in to sin
- g. Pastor's testimony is offensive and contrary to the Word of God
- h. Pastor is leading the Church away from the fundamental truth of Scriptures
- i. When the Word of God is not being preached
- j. When the Word of God is not being rightly divided.
- k. You are not being encouraged to grow through Bible Study, Prayer and personal involvement in the lives of others.
- l. You have outgrown the pastor and church.
- m. Personally offended
- n. Friends leave
- o. Sin
- p. Strife
- q. Refusal to accept discipline

❖ THE DISCIPLINE OF THE CHURCH

I Cor 13

3:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

NKJV