

## McChurch and the Body of Christ

- I. McChurch and Other Misconceptions
  - A. “Short-order” Churchgoers in America
  - B. Not an organization—but an organism
- II. Who Invented the Church Anyway?
  - A. It was always God’s idea (Matt. 16:15-19)
  - B. “Called out” for a purpose (II Peter 2:8-10)
  - C. Empowered to prevail
- III. Who Makes Up the Church?
  - A. Those made holy in Christ Jesus (I Cor. 1:1-3)
  - B. Religious motion sickness vs. real life in Christ
- IV. What God Thinks His Church Should Be and Do
  - A. The Church as the “Body of Christ” (Rom. 12:4-8)
  - B. The Church gathers together to grow in love and good works (Heb. 10:24-25)

“The prayer ministry of the church is a prayer on earth that results in a move in heaven. Prayer is for ministry and work. This prayer is the ministry of the church on earth; it is the work of the church. It is the responsibility that the church bears before God. The prayer of the church is the outlet of heaven. The prayer of the church means that when God wants to do something, the church prays about that matter first so that it can be fulfilled and God’s goal can be accomplished.” Watchman Nee, The Prayer Ministry of the Church
  - C. The Church “explains” God to the world (Eph. 3:9-12; II Cor. 5:18-21)
  - D. The Church grows and equips believers (Matt. 28:19-20; Eph. 4:11-16)
  - E. The Church does battle with Satan and carries out God’s purposes (II Cor. 10:4-5)

“A great lack among Christians today is that everyone wants to be an individual Christian. But God does not just want us to be good on an individual basis. He is after a corporate

vessel that will destroy Satan and accomplish His plan.” Watchman Nee, The Mystery of Christ

“For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.” (II Cor. 10:4-5)

- V. Practical Steps to Prepare for and Engage in the Battle
  - A. Get strong in God’s Word
  - B. Grow your prayer life
  - C. Prepare yourself to “give an answer”

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.” (II Peter 3:15-16)
  - D. Become a disciple who can make disciples

“The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” (I Timothy 2:2)
  - E. Ask God to make you alert as to where He wants you to engage in the battle

“God can hit a bulls eye with a crooked stick.” Tony Evans
  - F. Discover/develop your gifts and find a place to serve
- VI. The Gospel Lived Out: Fr. Maximilian Kolbe

“God is looking for people through whom He can do the impossible.” A.W. Tozer

## Recommended Reading

Being the Body, Charles Colson

Live a Praying Life, Jennifer Kennedy Dean

The Prayer Ministry of the Church, Watchman Nee

Kingdom Man, Tony Evans

The God-Centered Church, Henry and Melvin Blackaby

God's Glorious Church, Tony Evans

The Church Awakening, Charles Swindoll

The Mystery of Christ, Watchman Nee

Radical, David Platt

Radical Together, David Platt

The Explicit Gospel, Matt Chandler

The Disciplines of a Godly Man, R. Kent Hughes

Has Christianity Failed You? Ravi Zacharias

The Blood of Lambs, Kamal Saleem

Counterfeit Gods, Timothy Keller

The Normal Christian Life, Watchman Nee

What's So Great About Christianity? Dinesh D'Souza

The Pursuit of God, A.W. Tozer

The Reason for God, Timothy Keller

Through My Eyes, Tim Tebow

Crazy Love, Francis Chan

## Other Resources

[www.prayerconnect.net](http://www.prayerconnect.net)

[www.harvestprayer.com](http://www.harvestprayer.com)

[www.prayershop.org](http://www.prayershop.org)

"Anything God has ever done at any time He can do now. Anything God has ever done anywhere He can do here. Anything God has ever done for anybody He can do for you." A. W. Tozer

"Your prayers will never do anything except release God's power for God's purposes. On the other hand, your prayers will *always* release God's power for God's purposes" Jennifer Kennedy Dean, Live a Praying Life

"Jesus constantly quoted the Old Testament and made it clear that it was the inspired Word of God. We who follow Christ must have just as high a view of Scripture as Jesus did. The Word of God has the power to change lives."

Billy Graham, *Decision*, April, 2012

"Jesus described the church as a force that even the gates of hell couldn't prevail against...Somewhere between the cross and contemporary culture, the concept of ecclesia (the church) has been watered down from the full potency of its original meaning. To be a part of the ecclesia, as Jesus stated it, was to participate in the governing body that He has empowered to bring heaven's point of view in hell's society. The church is intended to bring God's governance into the relevant application and practice of humankind."

Tony Evans, Kingdom Man

"The Word is sufficient to hold the attention of God's people and satisfying enough to capture their affection. You and I can trust this Word. It forms and fulfills, motivates and mobilizes, equips and empowers, leads and directs the people of God in the church for the plan of God in the world. This won't automatically make everything easy in the church. But as long as Christians together are prayerfully and humbly asking what the plan of God is in his Word for His people and are abandoning our lives to it, we will be unleashing a radical people."

David Platt, Radical Together

What matters is not whether a church uses contemporary music or squash courts. What matters is biblical fidelity. If a thoroughly orthodox church challenges people to live holy lives and is growing, it is being blessed by God. If a church continuously disguises its identity and preaches a message intended to keep everyone in a state of perpetual comfort, then its growth is man-made. "Growth for growth's sake, man-made growth can be spiritually deadening," says Richard Neuhaus. "Institutional growth is the last refuge of ministries that are spiritually sterile." Charles Colson, Being the Body