

God never wants us to have a relationship with him in isolation, in the OT people were in tribes, in the post NT era people are in Churches. 'Ekklesia' is Greek word, a feminine noun, meaning people called out, to meet together, to assemble. Used 111 times in the NT

## The 'Church' in the Old Testament

There are interesting parallels between the Church and how the tribes were organised at first in Israel.

1. Each tribe had it's own patch. Joshua ch 13-21
  - a) to defeat enemy Joshua 17 v18
  - b) develop land Joshua 21 v43
2. Each tribe had it's own leaders Judges 11 v8 Joshua 23 v2
3. The tribes helped each other out. Judges 1 v2-3
4. National figures raised up Judges 6 v7-8
5. Had sense that they belonged to the whole Joshua 18 v3 Judges 2 v6-7
6. God was to be the King 1 Samuel 8 v 6-7

## Old Testament to New Testament

### Old Testament

1. They had to go up to the Temple
2. Had to fulfil the law to please God
3. Priests intercede for people

### New Testament

- We are the Temple of God 1 Cor 6 v 19 Eph 2 v21
- The law was within us Hebrews 10 v16
- We are priests with Jesus as our High priest 1 Peter 2 v5-9

Acts ch 2 v 1-4 Jesus was God with the disciples in human form. They had God with them, now it was God in them.

People should tell if someone was part of the Church. John 13 v35

## The Purpose of the Church

- A) To bring glory to God by i) Worshiping him ii) Showing love iii) Showing unity John 17 v21
- B) To extend his kingdom Matt ch 28 v19-20 i) Go make disciples ii) baptise iii) teach
- C) To be Jesus to the World Ephesians 1 v22-23

## Two pictures of the Church

- A) **Body** — 'Christ's body' Cannot love Jesus and hate his body! 1 Corinthians 12 v12-31, Ephesians 4 v11-13  
Should have God's life and power running through it.

We have to be united if body has one head! Colossians 1 v18

- B) **Building** — Foundation vital, Ephesians ch 2 v 19-22 1 Peter 2 v5-6

Question for any building, 'What does it stand for?'

Both images, have similarities concerning interdependence, smaller parts making up the whole

## Church Leadership, Organisation and order

How did the Early Church do things? It was organised.

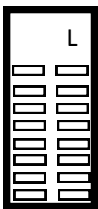
1. The early church had meetings to discuss issues Acts ch 15
2. They had methods of selecting people for roles Acts ch 1 v21-26, Acts ch 6 v1-5
3. They had to organise money 1 Corinthians 16 v1-2 2 Corinthians 8 v19  
Registers were kept of widows needing support. 1 Tim 5 v9
4. They appointed Elders ( Church Leaders) 1 Tim 5 v17, Titus 1 v5, and Deacons ( Practical issues ) 1 Tim 3 v8, Bishops( overseers) 1 Tim 3 v2 who had authority.
5. Every member was a priest, and had a gift/ministry, examples given evangelists, prophets 1 Cor ch 12 Eph ch 4

## Leaders and Body members

Different models.

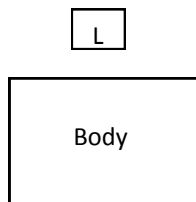
### A) Bus

One man show !



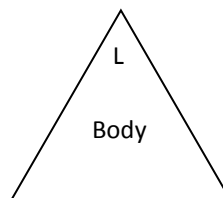
### B) Detached model

Clergy, laity distinction



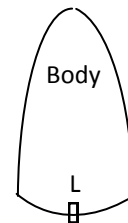
### C) Pyramid model

hierarchical order



### D) The Boat

Role of service and to give direction



### Leaders are.....

1. In need of support and can be under pressure
2. To be allowed to lead
3. In a position of authority, care & responsibility 1 Pet 3
4. Deserving of respect 1 Tim 5 v17
5. Examples

### Leaders are not.....

1. Super human
2. Infallible
3. The only source of guidance, teaching

### All Body members...

1. Accept Leadership, without losing their own identity or contribution
2. Have contribution to make to whole body, shaping decisions, watching that biblical standards are followed, making constructive criticism, but willing to be corrected.
3. Can say what they think, in the right manner, with the right motives.
4. Have duty to serve Jesus, to do what he has called them to do, under Leaders guidance & support.



What effects are there by having 'members' of the Church who are not real 'Christians'?

Can the Church be over organised, too many structures?

What decisions are 'leadership ones' and which are 'Body' ones? Is democracy a Biblical way?

