



Survey of Christian Theology.8

The Church / *Ecclesiology*





Logistics & Learning Objectives:

1. Learning Objectives. Participants will gain an understanding of:
 - a. The biblical basis and purpose of the Church
 - b. The Seven Churches of Revelation
 - c. Church History
 - d. The relationship between Church & State
2. For more information please visit studioscriptura.com



Key Sources:

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What is the Church?

The Greek word, **ἐκκλησία**, literally "called out," is commonly used to indicate a group of individuals called to gather; it is used to indicate being "called out" from your home to a public assembly.

The *church* is the gathering of those who have declared their faith in Christ, have been called out of the life of this world, and have dedicated themselves to a new life in Christ.

The church is not a denomination or a collection of denominations.

What is the Church? *(continued)*

The Church is not a building.

“God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.” Acts 17:24

What is the Church? *(continued)*

“For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the **church**, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.”

Colossians 1:16-18

What is the Church? *(continued)*

"He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 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. 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. 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." Matthew 16:15-19

The Church

... is built on the foundation of Christ

"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." Matthew 16:18

"To the **church** of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours" 1 Corinthians 1:2

"And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the **church**" Ephesians 1:22

"...as also Christ is head of the **church**" Ephesians 5:23

"For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And **He is the head of the body, the church**, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.." Colossians 1:16-18



The Church *(continued)*



... is God's designed location where correction takes place

"And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the **church**. But if he refuses even to hear the **church**, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector." Matthew 18:17

"So great fear came upon all the **church** and upon all who heard these things." Acts 5:11

... is where Christ desires unity

"And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch." Acts 5:12

"But if anyone seems to be contentious, we have no such custom, nor do the **churches** of God." 1 Corinthians 11:16

The Church *(continued)*

... has been the target of persecution since its beginning

"Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the **church** which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles." Acts 8:1

"As for Saul, he made havoc of the **church**, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison." Acts 8:3

"Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the **church**." Acts 12:1



The Church *(continued)*

... shall be called a place of prayer

"And He said to them, 'It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'" Matthew 21:13

"Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the **church**." Acts 12:5

"Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the **church**, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord." James 5:14



The Church *(continued)*



... is the sender of missionaries

"Now in the **church** that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, 'Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away." Acts 13:1-3

"So, being sent on their way by the **church**, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, describing the conversion of the Gentiles; and they caused great joy to all the brethren." Acts 15:3

"Now when they had come and gathered the **church** together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles." Acts 14:27

The Church *(continued)*

... is the center of teaching and discipleship

"And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, 'We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.' So when they had appointed elders in every **church**, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed." Acts 14:21-23

"For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every **church**." 1 Corinthians 4:17



The Church *(continued)*



... performs acts of Christian love

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world." James 1:22-27

The Church *(continued)*

... functions to edify believers

"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the **edifying** of the body of Christ,"
Ephesians 4:11-12 18

... is commanded to evangelize

"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 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, 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." Matthew 28:18-20



The Church *(continued)*



... is led by male elders & pastors

"So when they had appointed elders in every **church**, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed."
Acts 14:23

"And when they had come to Jerusalem, they were received by the **church** and the apostles and the elders; and they reported all things that God had done with them." Acts 15:4

"From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the **church**." Acts 20:17

The Church *(continued)*

"This is a faithful saying: **If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. A bishop then must be** blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil." ¹
Timothy 3:3-7



The Church *(continued)*



“For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and **appoint elders in every city as I commanded you— if a man** is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict. Titus 1:5-9

The Church *(continued)*

... is a place of community for believers & the Sacraments

"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25

"One another" appears about 50 times in the New Testament: Some examples:

- Bear one another's burdens (Ga 6:2)
- Speak truth to one another (Ep 4:25)
- Don't lie to one another (Co 3:9)
- Comfort one another concerning the resurrection (1 Th 4:18)
- Encourage and build up one another (1 Th 5:11)
- Stimulate one another to love and good deeds (He 10:24)
- Pray for one another (Jas 5:16)
- Be hospitable to one another (1 Pe 4:9)



The Reformation

Luther believed that the church had lost the "article by which the Church stands or falls." He believed the Church under the Pope in Rome had lost its claim to be the authentic Christian Church.

Had the church lost its commitment to the gospel of grace through faith alone?

Luther (1483 - 1546) and the Reformers needed to grapple with the issue that if they broke away from what they believed to be a corrupt church, would they then be violating the doctrine of the unity of the church?

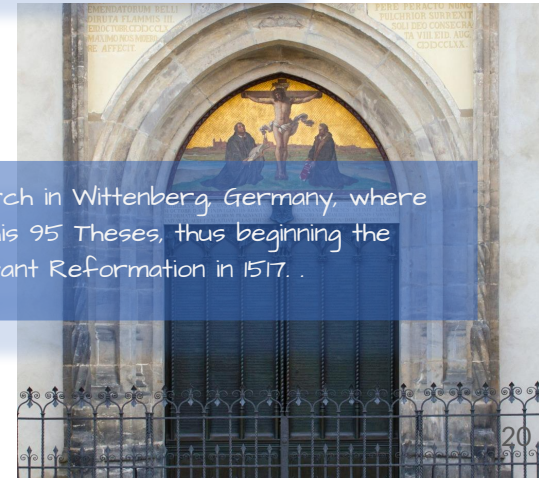
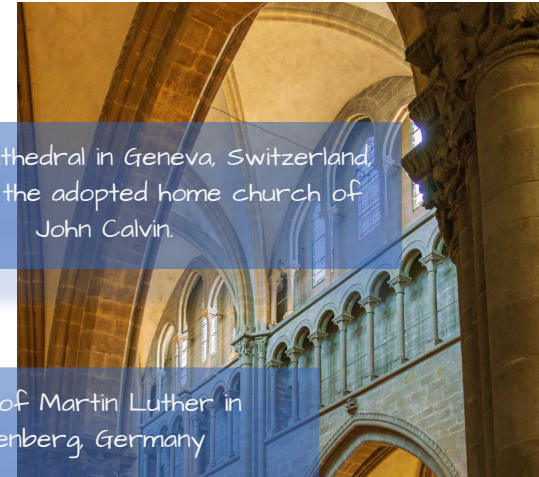
Luther believed that preaching the authority of the Word of God and the Gospel of justification by grace through faith is what defined the Church - not leadership in Rome.

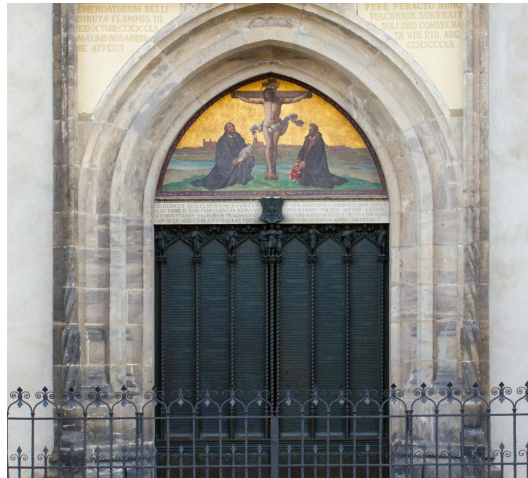


St. Pierre Cathedral in Geneva, Switzerland, is known as the adopted home church of John Calvin.

Statue of Martin Luther in Wittenberg, Germany

Door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany, where Luther nailed his 95 Theses, thus beginning the Protestant Reformation in 1517.





The Reformation *(continued)*

John Calvin (1509 - 1564) and the reformers initially thought they'd return to the Church of Rome upon its *reformation* - but this hope ended in 1541 at the Conference of Regensburg.

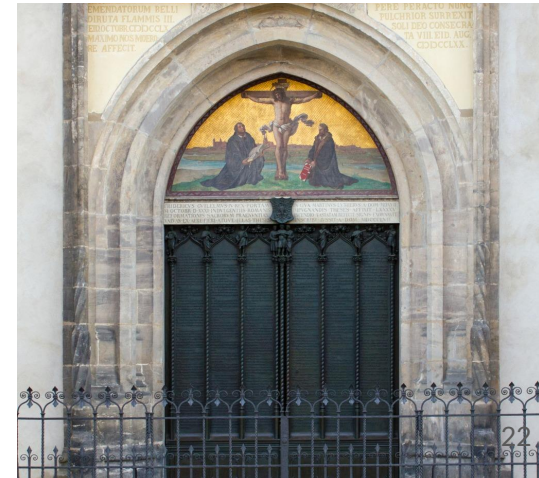
The true church became (and in fact, always was) where the gospel of justification by grace through faith was rightly preached from the authority of the Word of God. All who believe in their heart and confess with their mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord then partake of the Sacraments of baptism and communion as the biblical means of expressing their faith.

The Reformation *(continued)*

The radical reformers (Anabaptists) took the Reformation a step further. They posited that the church had been so negatively impacted by the secular state and society that the Church needed to more earnestly purify and radically separate itself from the world.

The church is a faithful remnant and is only comprised of those who are truly born again and guided by the Holy Spirit. This position on the church parallels the Donatists.

The radical reformers held that the baptism one receives at birth is of no impact. That only upon one's adult declaration of Jesus as their Lord should they be baptized (i.e., *another* baptism) by immersion.



The Church & Culture

Over the past two centuries, the church has struggled to find the right balance between Christian unity and doctrinal purity.

One side emphasizes unity at the expense of doctrinal purity. The other side posits that doctrinal purity is the foundation for unity. Those who truly ascribe Lordship to Jesus Christ have always emphasized the need to maintain doctrinal purity and to balance the presentation of their theological truths with the meekness and gentleness of Christ.

Throughout the centuries, the Church has slipped into emulating aspects of the world's culture.

The Church's true purpose, however, is to preach the biblical truth of salvation, and to show the love of Christ to the world - while remaining separate from the world.



The Church & Culture *(continued)*

The early church in Rome had a tough time, as most are familiar with the torment and persecution of Christians under the governmental authority of Rome.

Rome perceived themselves as diverse and inclusive; they brought many gods from their newly conquered territories into their culture. Rome welcomed everyone in a climate of diversity and inclusion - except the Christian Church.

Christians were often viewed as not accepting the national way of life because they did not respect any of the acceptable gods; nor did Christians ascribe lordship to Caesar. For these reasons, the Christian Church was viewed as an underground group that was potentially subversive to Rome. As such, Rome, and other governments throughout history, had an easy scapegoat for their problems (real or perceived) and therefore the logical jump was to root out and kill such traitorous peoples - i.e., Christians.



The Church & State

Foundational Passage(s)

Romans 13

"Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. 4 For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. 5 Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. 7 Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor."

Romans 13:1-7



The Church & State *(continued)*

Foundational Passage(s)

1 Peter 2

11 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, 12 having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation. 13 Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, 14 or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. 15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men— 16 as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. 17 Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.



The Church & State *(continued)*

Ground Rules From the Beginning

Genesis 1

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."



The Church & State *(continued)*

Everybody Wants to Rule the World

John 19

10 Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?" 11 Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin."



The Church & State *(continued)*

On What Hill Will You take Your Stand

Matthew 14

3 For Herod had laid hold of John and bound him, and put him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife. 4 Because John had said to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her." 5 And although he wanted to put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet. 6 But when Herod's birthday was celebrated, the daughter of Herodias danced before them and pleased Herod. 7 Therefore he promised with an oath to give her whatever she might ask. 8 So she, having been prompted by her mother, said, "Give me John the Baptist's head here on a platter." 9 And the king was sorry; nevertheless, because of the oaths and because of those who sat with him, he commanded it to be given to her. 10 So he sent and had John beheaded in prison. 11 And his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother.



The Church & State *(continued)*

Respect & Prayer

Acts 23

Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, "Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day." 2 And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth. 3 Then Paul said to him, "God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! For you sit to judge me according to the law, and do you command me to be struck contrary to the law?" 4 And those who stood by said, "Do you revile God's high priest?" 5 Then Paul said, "I did not know, brethren, that he was the high priest; for it is written, 'You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.'"

1 Timothy 2

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,



The Church & State *(continued)*

Jesus' Kingdom & Our Focus

John 18

33 Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?"
34 Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?"
35 Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?"
36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."
37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."
38a Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?"



The Church & State *(continued)*

Jesus' Kingdom & Our Focus

Revelation 11

15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" 16 And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, 17 saying: "We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned. 18a The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come,



The Church & State *(continued)*

Lessons from Daniel / When you face opposition or an ungodly request

But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. Daniel 1:8

Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?" Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up." Daniel 3:15-18



The Church & State *(continued)*

Lessons from Daniel / When you face opposition or an ungodly request

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days. Then these men assembled and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God. 12 And they went before the king, and spoke concerning the king's decree: "Have you not signed a decree that every man who petitions any god or man within thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?" The king answered and said, "The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter." So they answered and said before the king, "That Daniel, who is one of the captives from Judah, does not show due regard for you, O king, or for the decree that you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day." And the king, when he heard these words, was greatly displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him; and he labored till the going down of the sun to deliver him. Then these men approached the king, and said to the king, "Know, O king, that it is the law of the Medes and Persians that no decree or statute which the king establishes may be changed." So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you." Daniel 6:10-16



The Church & State *(continued)*

Having Done All, Stand

Acts 4

7 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, "By what power or by what name have you done this?" 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: ... 13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. 14 And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. ... 18 So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. 20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."



The Seven Churches of Revelation

The last book of the New Testament, the Revelation of Jesus Christ, instructs us about the behavior of the seven of churches of Asia Minor:

1. Ephesus (three kilometers southwest of present-day Selçuk in İzmir Province, Turkey) - A church that labored diligently for the Gospel and eschewed both evil and doctrinal impurity but is reprimanded because it had "left its first love!"
2. Smyrna (Izmir is the 3rd most populous city today in Turkey) - A church poor in terms of material wealth and persecuted for Christ; the Church of Smyrna is encouraged to "not have fear."



Modern-day Izmir, Turkey

The Seven Churches of Revelation *(continued)*

3. Pergamos (located in the modern-day Izmir Province of Turkey) - The church who held fast to the name of Christ but allowed false doctrines and accepted sexual immorality in the church.
4. Thyatira (now the modern Turkish city of Akhisar) - A church known for its works, love, and patience - but also allowed false teachers and sexual immorality into the church.
5. Sardis (near Salihli, in Turkey's Manisa Province) - The dead church that only had a remnant of true believers.

Sardis, Turkey



The Seven Churches of Revelation *(continued)*

6. Philadelphia (a town and district of Manisa Province in the Aegean region of Turkey) - The church that persevered, kept His Word, and did not deny His name.
7. Laodicea (near the modern city of Denizli, Turkey) - The church that rested in its wealth but was naked before God. Because it was lukewarm in faith, God firmly rebuked them: "I will spit you out of my mouth!"

Archeological remains of the main street of Laodicea, Turkey





Since those who have believed in their hearts and confess with their mouths that Jesus is Lord are part of *the Church*, it is incumbent upon us to know what the Bible teaches about *the Church*.

By understanding what the Bible teaches about the Church, we can (and should) rise above denominational differences as we focus on the Authority of Scripture and the Lordship of Jesus Christ!

It's important to know a bit of church history so we don't repeat errors of the past.

It's important to pray for, and study to know what the bible teaches about Church & State.





Thoughtfully read through the slides covering the Seven Churches, and prayerfully ask God if any of the negative characteristics of those churches are evident in your church? In your life?

Set aside some time to discuss the slides on Church & State with your family and a friend.

Continue to disciple your mind via memorizing and meditating on the Scriptures in these slides.

Set aside some time to discuss with your family and a friend, the balance between unity amongst *christians* and doctrinal purity.

A woman with dark hair, wearing a white polka-dot shirt, is sitting at a desk with a laptop. She is holding her glasses to her chin and looking thoughtfully to the right. The background is a blurred office setting.

Now What?