



Seeing What We  
believe

Isa. 41:20



Isa. 41:20 **That they may see, and know**, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of **the LORD hath done this**, and **the Holy One of Israel hath created it.**

Mountain Springs Baptist Church

Introduction

Our theme this year is....

VISION      20/20  
HIS VISION. OUR FOCUS.

For the next few weeks we will examine our church covenant, doctrine, constitution and by-laws. Tonight, we begin with looking at our function and fellowship as a church.



Amos 3:3 Can two walk together, **except they be agreed?**

Psa. 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* **for brethren to dwell together in unity!**

## I. THE FACT OF OUR CHURCH

### A. The Church Defined

Mt. 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock **I will build my church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.



**Original Word:** Πέτρος

**Transliteration:** Petros

**Definition:** "a stone" or "a boulder", Peter, one of the twelve apostles

**Usage:** Peter, a Greek name meaning rock.

*Pétros* – properly, a stone (pebble), such as a small rock found along a pathway. *Pétros* ("small stone") then stands in contrast to *pétra* ("cliff, boulder," *Abbott-Smith*).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/4074.htm>

Jn. 1:42 And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: **thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.**



**Original Word:** πέτρα

**Transliteration:** petra

**Definition:** a (large mass of) rock

**Usage:** a rock, ledge, cliff, cave, stony ground.

*pétra* (a feminine noun) – **"a mass of connected rock,"**  
**which is distinct from (*Pétros*) which is "a detached stone**  
**or boulder"** (A-S). (*pétra*) is a "solid or native rock, rising up  
through the earth" (Souter) – a *huge mass of rock (a boulder)*,  
such as a *projecting cliff*.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/4073.htm>

Mt. 18:17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell *it* unto **the church**: but if he neglect to hear **the church**, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.



**Original Word:** ἐκκλησία

**Transliteration:** ekklésia

**Definition:** an assembly, a (religious) congregation

**Usage:** an assembly, congregation, church; the Church, the whole body of Christian believers.

*ekklēsía* (from *ek*, "out from and to" and *kaléō*, "to call") –

**properly, people called out from the world and to God,**

~~the outcome being the Church (the mystical body of Christ) –~~

~~i.e. the universal (total) body of believers whom God~~

~~calls out from the world and into His eternal kingdom.~~

<https://biblehub.com/greek/1577.htm>



## B. The Church Depicted

Psa. 22:22 I will declare thy name unto my brethren: **in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee.**

Heb. 2:12 Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, **in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.**

### **CONGREGATION**, *noun*

1. The act of bringing together, or assembling.
2. A collection or assemblage of separate things; as a *congregation* of vapors.
3. More generally, an assembly or persons; and appropriately, an assembly of persons met for the worship of God, and for religious instruction.

<http://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/congregation>



## II. THE FUNCTION OF OUR CHURCH

### A. The Representation of the Church = THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

1 Cor. 12:12 For as **the body is one, and hath many members**, and all the members of that one body, **being many, are one body: so also is Christ. ...**

27 Now **ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.**

### B. The Responsibility of the Church = GLORIFY THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Col. 1:18 And **he is the head of the body, the church**: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; **that in all things he might have the preeminence.**



Rom. 15:6 That ye may with **one mind *and* one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

1 Cor. 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or **whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.**

Eph. 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as **Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.**

❖ Glorify the Lord through fruitfulness.

Jn. 15:8 **Herein is my Father glorified**, that ye **bear much fruit**; so shall ye be my disciples.



❖ Glorify the Lord through prayer:

2 Chron. 7:1 Now **when Solomon had made an end of praying**, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and **the glory of the LORD filled the house.**

2 Thess. 3:1 Finally, brethren, **pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified**, even as *it is* with you:

❖ Glorify the Lord through His Word:

Psa. 138:2 I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for **thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.**



2 Tim. 2:15 Study to shew thyself **approved unto God**, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**

❖ Glorify the Lord through music:

Psa. 138:5 Yea, **they shall sing in the ways of the LORD: for great *is* the glory of the LORD.**

Psa. 66:2 **Sing forth the honour of his name:** make his praise glorious.

Isa 44:23 **Sing, O ye heavens; for the LORD hath done *it*:** shout, ye lower parts of the earth: **break forth into singing**, ye mountains, O forest, and every tree therein: for the LORD hath redeemed Jacob, **and glorified himself in Israel.**



Rom. 15:9 And that the Gentiles might glorify God for *his* mercy; as it is written, **For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.**

❖ Glorify the Lord through missions:

Isa. 42:12 Let them **give glory unto the LORD**, and **declare his praise in the islands.**

Isa. 62:2 And **the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory**: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name.

Hab. 2:14 For **the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD**, as the waters cover the sea.



Phil. 2:11 And *that* **every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

### III. THE FELLOWSHIP OF OUR CHURCH

#### A. Unity from Diversity

1 Cor. 12:4 Now **there are diversities** of gifts, **but the same Spirit.**

5 And **there are differences** of administrations, **but the same Lord.**

6 And **there are diversities** of operations, **but it is the same God which worketh all in all.**

7 But the manifestation **of the Spirit** is given to every man to profit withal.

8 For to one is given **by the Spirit** the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge **by the same Spirit;**



9 To another faith **by the same Spirit**; to another the gifts of healing **by the same Spirit**;

10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another *divers* kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

11 But **all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.**

12 For as **the body is one, and hath many members**, and all the members of that one body, **being many, are one body**: so also *is* Christ.

13 For **by one Spirit** are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

14 For **the body is not one member, but many.**

Rom. 12:5 **So we, being many, are one body in Christ**, and every one members one of another.



## B. Unity for Development

Rom. 15:3 For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.

4 For **whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.**

5 Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to **be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:**

6 That ye may with **one mind *and* one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.**



Eph. 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets;  
and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 **For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the  
ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:**

13 **Till we all come in the unity of the faith,** and of the  
knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the  
measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:





## Conclusion

Eph. 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord,  
**beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation  
wherewith ye are called,**

2 With all lowliness and meekness, with  
longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

3 **Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in  
the bond of peace.**