

Unfamiliar Bible Words: Church (2)

Last week we saw that, in the Bible, *church* refers to the people saved by the blood of Christ (Eph. 2:13, 16; 1:22-23).

Today some people think of *church* as being separate from what they call “Christianity.” Their idea is “I’m a Christian, but church is not for me.” In the Bible, being: in Christ, saved, a Christian, and a part of the body (church) of Christ are indistinguishable (Acts 2:41, 47; 26:28; Eph. 2:13, 16).

The Bible also teaches the difference between the one church and the many churches. Paul said *there is one body*, the church is the body, and Jesus is the only head (Eph. 4:4; 1:22-23). Paul also wrote of the *churches of Christ* (Rom. 16:16). What is the difference? The *one body/church* is the group composed of every person saved by the blood of Jesus. The *churches of Christ* are individual groups of Christians who live near each other and commit to work together. For example, when the Ethiopian was baptized into Christ in a deserted area, he was added to the body of Christ but was not yet a part of one of the churches of Christ until he found other Christians to work with (Acts 8:30-39).

Visit our website to read our next article on this topic.