

**Series: Sound Doctrine**

**Title: Family, Kingdom, Church**

As a child of God, I feel privileged to be a serving member of one of God's New Testament Bible believing, Baptist churches.

Being a member of 1 on God's churches, must be something that we allow to develop us as Christians.

That development will be evidenced by our growth in our active support both Spiritually and financially.

I am a Baptist by conviction b/c of my understanding of the Word of God.

Many Christians know there are differences of belief's, but don't really care what the truth is.

I believe it matters what a person believes.

I believe it makes a Big difference what a person believes.

**I believe we are obligated to learn the truth, Believe the truth, and let that truth have an effect on our life.**

If we believe error, we will speak error and we will live error.

If what we say & do makes a difference, then it must make a difference what we believe.

**(Titus 1:9) Sound Doctrine is...**

**Sound Doctrine = Correct Bible Teaching.**

(Titus 1:10-11) Tells us why Sound Doctrine is Necessary.

We are to Teach Truth, Expose Error, & Correct False Teaching w/ Sound Doctrine.

(2 Tim 4:1-2) The Need for Sound Doctrine has always been, and always will be.

**If Our Church is to be pleasing to God, we must Stand on Sound Doctrine.**

We do that by standing on God's Holy, Inspired, Inerrant, Preserved Word. - The KJV Bible.

**I make no apologies as to my convictions regarding the Veracity of the KJV Bible.**

To have *Sound Doctrine*, Our beliefs must not only be founded **ON** the Word of God, they must also be found **IN** the Word of God.

**The Confusion:** There is a great confusion among christians regarding the definition of the ...

Family of God

Kingdom of God

Kingdom of Heaven

Church of God

Many Christians use these 4 terms interchangeably.

This is mistake.

The Family of God is made up of all Born again believers. Some of the Family of God is in the Kingdom of God, & the rest are in the Kingdom of Heaven.

The Church of God is made up of members of the Family of God who have the Kingdom of God residing in them on earth.

***Simple, Isn't it?***

Well lets look to the Scriptures.

## **I. The Family of God:**

***All believers, from all time, that are in Christ are children of God, whether on Earth or in Heaven.***

(John 1:12) *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*

(Gal 3:26) *For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.*

(Gal 3:28) *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.*

***All believers, from all time, that are in Christ are children of God, whether on Earth or in Heaven.***

(Eph 3:15) *Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,*

***This Includes the OT Saints Also:***

(Acts 10:43) *To him (Christ) give all the prophets (OT Prophets) witness (Testified to anyone who would listen), that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.*

***The OT Saint are saved in the same fashion we are.***

***They looked forward in time to Calvary:***

(Gen 22:14) *In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.,*

**(Rom 4:16-25) Both OT & NT Believers Are Outlined...**

(Vs 16-22) Abraham's testimony of Faith & Imputed Righteousness

(Vs 23-25) Our Backward Look to Calvary:

***When a person is born of God, they are in God's family forever.***

(1 Jn 5:1) *Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.*

(1Jn 5:13) *These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*

**The Family of God** *is All believers, from all time, that are in Christ, referred to as the Children of God, whether on Earth or in Heaven.*

## **The Kingdom of God vs. Kingdom of Heaven**

There is a lot of confusion between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven.

***1st thing, A Kingdom is a the Domain of the King.***

**A Kingdom is where a King Rules:**

Kingdom means "to possess," "to reign," inasmuch as the possessor is also "lord" and "ruler";

***The inhabitants or population is subject to a king.***

His laws are Enacted & Enforced.

His language is spoken.

His Authority is without Challenge.

## **II. The Kingdom of God:**

***The Kingdom of God includes all the saved on earth at any specific time in the history of the world. Like Right NOW!***

*(Lk 17:20-21) And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: 21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.*

***The Present Kingdom of God is spiritual.***

*(Jn 18:36) Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.*

***People are delivered out of the Kingdom of Satan and transferred into the Kingdom of God.***

*(Col 1:13) Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:*

***When one is saved and comes to know Christ as his Lord and Savior, he has entered the Kingdom of God.***

*(Mk 1:15) The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.*

*(Mk 9:1) Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.*

***We are Born into the Kingdom of God, not added to it.***

*(Jn 3:3) Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

***The Opposite of Entering the Kingdom of God is Hell.***

*(Mk 9:47) And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire:*

***That's how we know the Kingdom of God is Our King, ruling and Reigning in our hearts.***

***When we die, we pass out of God's Kingdom on earth into God's Kingdom in Heaven.***

*(2 Tim 4:18) And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

***The Kingdom is a the Domain of the King.***

***The Church is a Called Out Assembly.***

***The Kingdom of God is a world wide, invisible nature.***

*(Lk 17:20b-21) The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: 21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.*

***The Kingdom was preached & at one time was announced as being "At Hand".***

*(Mk 1:15) The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.*

***This language is never once used to describe the church.***

*(Acts 20:25) And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more.*

*(Acts 28:31) Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.*

***It is referred to as “The Gospel of the Kingdom”, not the gospel of the church.***

*(Mk 1:14) Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,*

*(Matt 4:23) And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.*

*(Matt 9:35) And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.*

***the Family of God vs. The Kingdom of God vs...***

### **III. The Kingdom of Heaven:**

The bible follows the history of the Jews.

They sought a Kingdom of Heaven, a Kingdom with its Capitol City (Jerusalem) on this earth.

Israel Rejected Jesus, b/c they were only looking for an earthly Kingdom.

*(Jer 23:5) Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign & prosper, & shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.*

*(Ps 48:2) Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mt. Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.*

The Jews wanted a Warrior King w/a military deliverance.

They were blind to their spiritual need.

Which was Salvation from the power & penalty of sin.

That's why the Jews asked him about it. (LK 17:20-21)

Jesus was Preaching the Kingdom of God.

**Jesus was asked about His Kingdom by Pilate.**

*(Jn 18:33-36) The Key Word is “NOW”.*

He is **NOT SPEAKING** of the Kingdom of God.

-Salvation in the hearts of Believers.

He is Speaking of a Literal, Political, Future Kingdom of Heaven on earth at Jerusalem.

“NOW” is removed from ESV, CEV, NLT, AMP, NASB.

They do not accept the Millennial Reign of Christ.

The Disciples also looked for a Kingdom of Heaven on Earth.

*(Acts 1:6-8)*

They were clearly asking about a literal Kingdom on Earth.

***Family of God vs. Kingdom of God vs. Kingdom of Heaven..***

### **IV. The Church of God:**

I am astounded at how many people do not understand the definition of the church.

### **Israel and the Church are NOT the SAME thing**

God, called out 2 peoples to represent Him on planet earth.

### **Israel, God's chosen earthly people.**

*(Deut 14:2) “For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth.”*

### ***When God called Abraham He gave him a promise.***

*(Gen 12:2-3) “<sup>2</sup> And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: <sup>3</sup> And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”*

**God promised that all families of the earth will be blessed, and this promise was fulfilled through Christ.**

(Gal 3:8) *And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.*

(Gal 3:16) *Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.*

**After Israel had become a great nation God gave them two ordinances Circumcision and the Passover.**

***Circumcision was their Identifier:***

***Circumcision was to keep Israel clean from without.***

(Ex 12:43-48) *And the LORD said unto Moses and Aaron, This is the ordinance of the passover: There shall no stranger eat thereof: <sup>44</sup> But every man's servant that is bought for money, **when thou hast circumcised him**, then shall he eat thereof. <sup>45</sup> A foreigner and an hired servant shall not eat thereof. <sup>48</sup> And when a stranger shall sojourn with thee, and will keep the passover to the LORD, **let all his males be circumcised**, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as one that is born in the land: for no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof."*

***The Passover was to keep Israel clean from within.***

(Ex 13:5-7) *And it shall be when the LORD shall bring thee into the land..., which he swore unto thy fathers to give thee, ..., that thou shalt keep this service in this month. <sup>6</sup> Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, & in the seventh day shall be a feast to the LORD. <sup>7</sup> Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days; & there shall no leavened bread be seen with thee, neither shall there be leaven seen with thee in all thy quarters*

***Leaven=yeast, causes bread to rise, Is a Bible type of sin.***

(1 Cor 5:6) *Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? <sup>7</sup> Purge out there<sup>4</sup> the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened.*

*For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:  
Vs 8 talks about the Leaven of Malice & Wickedness.*

*Israel is God's Earthly People...*

**The Church is God's heavenly people.**

(1 Peter 2:9-10) *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: <sup>10</sup> Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.*

**God gave His church 2 ord - Baptism & Lord's Supper**

***Baptism Keeps the Church Pure from Without.***

***Lord's supper Keeps the Church Pure from Within.***

**I am astounded at how many people do not understand the definition of the church.**

I have found churches calling themselves Baptist that are nothing but interdenominational churches.

I have found preachers who are not Baptists pastoring what they call "Baptist" churches.

At the same time, I have found Baptist preachers pastoring interdenominational churches.

Something is wrong & it's not hard to determine the problem. People don't know the Biblical Definition of the Church.

## **The Church & Kingdom of God are not the same thing**

***The Church of God is referred to as “BUILT”.***

(Matt 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.*

***The Kingdom of God is never spoken of that way.***

## **The Church is referred to as the Body of Christ:**

(Eph 1:22-23) *And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.*

***The Kingdom of God is not spoken of as a body.***

Jesus said in Matt 18 to tell it to the church, not the Kingdom.

I do not believe that God would establish an institution,  
Call that institution His body,  
Purchase that institution with His own blood on the cross  
Then leave mankind in darkness concerning its purpose and  
place in this world.

Our Lord said in (Matt 16:18) *“upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”*

## **2 thoughts I would like to bring to your attention:**

***First, the church was not built upon Peter,***

(Matt 16:18) *“That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church;.”*

***The rock was Christ Jesus, as Peter’s statement reveals:***

(1 Pet 2:6-8) Peter’s Own Confession is Jesus as the Rock.

***This statement is consistent with the rest of the Bible***

(Ps 89:26) *“Thou art my father, my God, and the rock of my salvation.”*

(1 Sam 2:2) *“There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.”*

(1 Cor 3:11) *“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”*

***God would not build His church upon a man and a few moments later call that man Satan.***

(Matt 16:23) *“Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.”*

***Christ would not build His church on one that was an offense unto Him, nor would He build His church on one who did not understand the things of God.***

***Secondly, Jesus said: “Its the Lord’s Church & the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”***

If this is so & our Lord built His church while upon the earth, as we believe He did, **THEN** many of the organizations called churches today are not that church **HE Built**.

## **Seven Oldest and Leading Denominations**

I. ***Roman Catholic*** – 590 A.D.

Constantine tried to unite the church & the world in 315 A.D. This did not happen at that time but through his efforts Christianity and paganism were united.

II. ***Lutheran*** – 1520 A.D.

Martin Luther was a child of Rome, a Catholic monk. He rebelled against the corruption of the priesthood.

III. **Episcopalian/Anglican/Church of England** – 1534 A.D.

King Henry VIII wanted to divorce his wife, Catherine, & marry Ann Bolyn.

Roman Catholic Church would not grant him permission. Henry broke from the Roman Church and the Episcopal Church, or Church of England, came into being.

IV. **Presbyterian** 1540 A.D.

John Calvin was also a Catholic monk.

He joined hands with Martin Luther; Their doctrine and church policies differed.

V. **Congregational** – 1580 A.D.

Robert Brown was an Episcopalian minister.

He started his work in opposition to the state church. Later repented & returned, died in the Episcopalian Church.

VI. **Methodist** – 1740 – 44 A.D.

John Wesley, another Episcopalian minister, broke with the Anglican church & organized a missionary society. 541 itinerant preachers under the name "Methodist"

VII. **Campbellism** (Campbellites) – 1827 A.D.

Alexander Campbell established the Christian movement. Later it divided b/c of a disagreement on music in the church. As a result the Church of Christ was established.

The Catholics were 300 years too late while the Lutherans, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, and the Congregationalists were over 1500 years too late.

The Methodists were 1700 years too late, while, Campbellism was 1800 years too late.

These all 500-1800 yr too late to be the church that Jesus built

If any of these were the church then the gates of hell prevailed against the church from the days of Christ until they organized

It is true that men like Martin Luther, John Calvin, and John Wesley had a great part in the days of the reformation.

These men tried desperately to correct the heresy of the Roman Catholic Church & Church of England.

Their efforts failed nevertheless they left their mark upon history.

As a result of their stand the Protestant movement came into being.

Protestants are those churches that sprung forth out of the reformation, that is when Luther with Calvin and others took their stand against some of the teachings of the Catholic Church.

We do not have an argument with these denominations, and other groups, so long as they preach God's Word.

(Lk 9: 49, 50) *“And John answered and said, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name; and we forbid him, because he followeth not with us. And Jesus said unto him, Forbid him not: for he that is not against us is for us.”*

We know that there are many great preachers of other denominations & multitudes are saved through their ministry,

for which we praise God, but our intention is to explain the Church according to Biblical truth.

**The question, then, is when did Jesus build his church?**  
*It was not on the Day of Pentecost as many teach.*

**On the Day of Pentecost?**

*“there were added unto them about three thousand souls”*  
(Acts 2:41) **To whom & WHAT were they added?**

They were added to, the 120 members of FBC Jerusalem  
(Acts 1:15)

**The church was established before Pentecost is evidenced by several facts.**

First: *it had a treasurer* (John 12:6),

Second: *it had discipline* (Matthew 18:15-17)

Third: *It observed the 2 ordinances, Baptism/Lord’s Supper*

Fourth: *The Church was commissioned* (Matthew 28:18-20).

Our problem today is that we have read works by the  
Protestants and their teachings have influenced us.  
We need to get back to **“thus saith the Lord.”**

**The Church Was Not Established In The Upper Room**

when Jesus breathed upon them (John 20:20)

*“And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:”*

***This was the fulfillment of our Lord’s promise in***

**(Jn 14:16)** *“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;”*

John 20: Jesus was fulfilling the promise of the Comforter.

**So the question is: When did Jesus establish his church?**  
**(Eph 2:19-20)** *“Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.**”*

2nd Notice the statement *“built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets.”*

The word “foundation” means, the act of founding, or a supporting structure.

If the Jesus & the Apostles are the foundation then the church must be built upon them & Started with them.

The word “prophet” means one who utters revelations or predicts events. That is one proclaiming the Word of God.

So, the church then is built upon Jesus the chief Cornerstone. & the apostles, their preaching & teaching.

**(1 Cor 12:28)** the apostles were first put or placed into the church. *“God hath set some in the church, first apostles,”*  
This is a numerical list.

**(Eph 4:11-14) Why the Apostles were set in 1st.**

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 fullness of Christ:”*

14 *“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;”*

If we are going to believe God’s word then we must believe that God set the apostles in the church first.

Therefore the church did not exist before our Lord established it while He was here on earth in His flesh.

Notice that Christ himself being the Chief Corner Stone was said to be an apostle.

(Heb 3:1) *“Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;”*

### **When then did this event take place?**

(Luke 6:12) *“And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.”*

If our Lord spent all night alone in prayer something great was about to take place.

Vs 13 *“And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;”*

The Lord Jesus Christ spent all night in prayer.

He did so because he was about to establish His church.

Who was it that Jesus taught/trained here on earth? The 12.

With whom did He established the Lord’s Supper? The 12.

Who did He commission to go into all the world? The 11,

(Acts 2:42) *“And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”*

The “apostles’ doctrine”, meaning, that they continued the teaching of the church, which Jesus had established.

**EKKLESIA**~a company of people called out to a specific place for a specific purpose.

It has its roots in the democracies of the ancient Greek city-states where town criers would call the citizens to a meeting in order to conduct the city’s business.

114 times the Word EKKLESIA is translated Church.

Jesus did not change the Meaning of the Greek word.

Jesus just distinguished it from all other assemblies of the day by by using the personal Pronoun “MY”. (Matt 16:18)

### **The NT Church is the Lord’s Assembly.**

***The church was known by its location such as in ...***

1 Cor 1:2 *“Unto the church of God which is at Corinth,”*

Colossians 4:16 *“the church of the Laodiceans; .....”;*

1 Thessalonians 1:1 *“the church of the Thessalonians ”;*

(Rev 2&3) 7 literal letters to 7 literal churches, in 7 literal locations.

**It is a Local visible assembly of God’s people.**

***A Child of God, is in the Family of God, with the Kingdom of God with in them, and NOT be in the Church of God until Baptism.***

(Acts 2:21,47)

Where He gets Glory – Eph 3:21

Is what Christ gave himself for it – Eph 5:25

Is a glorious thing; Eph 5:27; Is a Holy thing; Eph 5:27

Bring Him Glory by Fulfilling His Purpose Eph 4:11-19

Matt 28:19-20 Great commission

2 Tim 2:2 be a multiplying Disciple!

**A Local, Visible, Assembly, of Baptized Believers who have covenanted together to carry out God's Great commission.**

*The Church of God is the Local, Visible, Called Out Assembly of Baptized Believers who have covenanted together to carry out the Great Commission.*

*The Church of God is never used of any people or institution, except as an assembly of baptized believers in a specific place.*

*Are you a Member of the Family of God with the Kingdom of God in you?*

When were you Born into it?

*Are you longing for the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth?*

*Are you a member of the Church?*