

Misconceptions about the Church
Eph 3:10-11
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show some common misconceptions about the Church.

- Intro: 1. Misconception – “the act or result of misconceiving,” “a wrong or inaccurate conception,” “a wrong notion,” “misunderstanding”
2. Are there today any who have misconceptions or false ideas about the church of Christ?
- I. 1st misconception – that the church is a building.
- A. The church is the people not the building.
1. A building is just the place where people meet.
2. An assembly demands a place to meet (**Heb 10:25**).
- B. The word church means “called out”
1. The church is made up of those who have been delivered from darkness and placed into the kingdom (**Col 1:13**).
2. The Lord didn’t add people to a building’s roster but to His church (**Acts 2:47**).
- II. 2nd misconception – that the church is a temporary substitute for the Kingdom
- A. Some believe Christ came to establish His Kingdom, but was rejected by the Jews so He established the church instead.
1. When Christ feed the 5000, some there wanted to make Him King (**Jn 6:14-15**).
- B. The prophets spoke of the church.
1. The Prophets prophesied concerning the days of the church (**1 Pt 1:10-12**).
2. Peter mentions this in Acts 2:16.
- C. The Kingdom Christ came to establish was instituted just as was prophesied. It is the church – **Mk 9:1**
- III. 3rd misconception – that the church is made up of all the various denominations
- A. Some believe one church is just as good as another.
1. Some use **John 15:1-8**, however notice the references to individuals and not groups. (Me, you, etc).
2. It’s not what men believe but what the Bible says that matters.
- B. The truth is “one denomination is just as good as another”
1. None of them are supported by the Bible!
2. None existed in the 1st Century!
3. They were all established by men, centuries after the Lord established His church.
- C. The N.T. speaks of only one BODY.
1. Mt 16:18 – “my church
2. Eph 4:4 – “there is one body”

- IV. 4th misconception – that the church is a social organization
- A. The idea of “fun and games” is the idea many have.
 - 1. Many programs developed by liberal congregations are designed to satisfy the physical and social needs of others.
 - 2. Any event or building used only to entertain is not what the church is about.
 - B. The drawing power of the church is not fun and entertainment – but the gospel (**Rom 1:16**)
 - 1. Those who use such activities are ashamed of the power of the gospel.
 - 2. There is a time for fun activities but it shouldn't be the focus of the Lord's church.

- V. 5th misconception – that the church is not essential to salvation
- A. Jesus believed the church was important enough to die for (**Acts 20:28**)
 - 1. If the church is not essential, then Christ died for nothing.
 - B. People think they can live a good life and go to heaven without being a member of the church.
 - 1. When the Lord comes it will be to save His body (the church- **Eph 5:23**).
 - 2. Those not in the right garment will not be saved (**Mt 22:11-12**).

Application & Conclusion:

- 1. There may be misconceptions or false ideas about the church today.
- 2. We can however clear up any false ideas about the church from the Bible (**2 Pt 1:3**).
- 3. Full Invitation