

Lesson 5

ST. PAUL'S TEACHING ON THE CHURCH AND CHURCH IN THE MODERN WORLD

Biblical Passages to be read for the lesson:

The whole book of Ephesians (6 chapters)
The book of 1 Corinthians 1, 3, 6, 11 (4 chapters)

What is Church?

What does the Bible say about Church?

What is the teaching of St. Paul on Church?

Divisions in Corinthian Church and Paul's appeal to unity

What are the benefits of going to Church?

What is the difference between Church and Denomination and Sect

Further reading on the church (*Lumen gentium*, the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, is one of the principal documents of the Second Vatican Council.

Be proud of being a catholic

What is the church? The church is the expression of Jesus Christ in the world until He comes. God has ordained the church to carry out his purpose and will in the world. It reveals us Christ. When we consider the biblical teaching on the church, we realize the church is vitally important for growing in Christ. It is not some human association born of common ideas or interests, but something that God has called together. Like a branch that grows because of its connection to the tree, we thrive when we stay connected to the church.

Before we speak of St. Paul's teaching on the Church, let us get to know the root word for "Church". In Hebrew, church is known as "**Qahal**" which means assembly and in Greek, it is known as "**Ekklesia**". From this Greek word, we have modern expressions: Italian word for church, (*chiesa*) French word (*église*), Spanish word (*iglesia*), German word (*kirche*) and English word (*church*). This word denotes the new community of believers in Christ who belong to be God's assembly. The word *ekkle-sía* makes its debut only in the writing of Paul, the very first author of a Christian writing. It is found in the opening of the Letter to the Thessalonians, which, according to the text, Paul addressed "to the church of the Thessalonians." (1 Thes 1:1) Also note "the church of the Laodiceans" in Col 4:16. In other letters, he speaks about the church of God in Corinth (1 Cor 1:2; 2 Cors 1:1) in Galatia (Gal 1:2). He also writes about the persecuted Church (Gal 1:13). From this, we see that the word "church" is multifaceted in meaning.

What does the Bible say about the church? Before we can look at what the New Testament (NT) teaches about the church, we first need to see what the Old Testament (OT) says about life and worship.

Church in the OT: God instructed Moses to build a tabernacle—a portable tent that represented the presence of God dwelling right in the middle of his people. The tabernacle (later the temple) was the place where God instructed the sacrifices to be carried out and the festivals to be celebrated. The tabernacle and temple functioned as the central place of instruction and teaching about God and his will for Israel. From the tabernacle and temple, Israel sounded forth loud and joyful psalms of praise and worship to God. The tabernacle and temple were not only to be viewed as the geographical center of Israel; they were also intended to be the spiritual center of Israel.

Church in the NT: The church did not officially come into existence until the day of Pentecost (Acts 2 - the birth of the church) after Jesus had died and had risen. However, in the Gospels we learn many things from Christ concerning the church. Let's review two. 1. We have Jesus' declaration, *"And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven"* (Matt. 16:18-19). 2. Jesus hands the church its mission statement and purpose for existence when he gives the disciples the Great Commission in Matthew 28:16–20 *"The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."* This passage characterizes the church's work and life to go out into the world, make disciples, carry out the task of baptizing the new disciples and teach them all that Christ has commanded. The NT frequently refers to the church as Christ's body. We are literally the presence of Christ on earth. The church (Christ's body) is visible and manifest in universal and local congregations or churches.

Church from the Book of Acts of the Apostles: The book of Acts tells the story of the church from its inception on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2, to chapter 28 with Paul at Rome. In between, the church experiences tragedies and triumphs, sorrows and joys. The book of Acts tells the story of the young church, persecuted but bold. Two things stand out in the life of the early church. One concerns the power of the Holy Spirit. At the end of the Gospels we see apostles who were scared, even to the point of hiding. Then in the early chapters of Acts these same apostles boldly turn the world upside down.

The key to understanding what happened to them is seen in Acts 1:8 (in Christ's prophecy), then in Acts 2 (the prophecy's fulfillment). The apostles received the Holy Spirit, and with the Spirit they received power. This same Spirit still binds believers together and brings us into the family of God (Eph. 4:1–7). The Holy Spirit graciously gives us spiritual gifts, according to Romans 12:3–8 and 1 Corinthians 12:4–11. God has designed the church to be the place where these gifts are discovered, nurtured, and used to build up the body of Christ and bring it to maturity,

ultimately for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 14). The same Spirit who worked powerfully in the early church continues to work in and through the church today. Second, the book of Acts shows how the church functions and what it does. Members of the early church “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42). All these activities are essential to growing in Christ, and all occur within the local church.

Church in the NT Letters: Having looked briefly at the tabernacle and temple in the OT, and the church in the Gospels and Acts, we now come to the NT letters. St. Paul and the other NT writers often use word pictures to describe the church. At one point Paul calls the church “the household of God” (1 Tim. 3:15), “the building” (Eph. 2:20–22; 1 Pet. 2:4–5). “the flock of sheep” (1 Pet. 5:1–4), “Christ’s body” (St. Paul’s favorite metaphor (Eph. 4:11–16; 1 Cor. 12:12–27), “the bride” (2 Cor 11:2-4). All of these metaphors contribute to a fuller understanding of how to live the Christian life as part of the church.

Church is the bride: Jesus is the bridegroom and we are the bride and that is why the church is addressed in the feminine gender as she/her. Preface in the liturgy: For, as on the festival of Saint Theresa of Jesus, you bid your Church rejoice, so, too, you strengthen her by the example of his holy life, teach her by his words of preaching, and keep her safe in answer to his prayers.

St. Paul, the Churches he planted and his teaching on the church: His great skills, extraordinary powers of communication, his constant contact with individuals from different Christian communities and his habit of writing letters to the churches he established with warmth and warning gave Christianity a great face in the Biblical world even at its very inception and enabled it to develop into a highly organized structure with unity in diversity. Thirteen of the *New Testament* books are said to have been written by Paul who was known as a fanatical opponent of the early followers of Christ. But only his letters are the earliest writings on Jesus’ life.

St. Paul’s understanding of the Church in the letter to the Ephesians: What is unique about this letter is that Paul is not talking so much about a local church, but the Church in general and he uses a metaphor of a ‘Body with Christ as the Head’. In other words, Paul is not talking from the standpoint of any local or individual church community of his time, but he is speaking about the Church as a Body, that is, about the total number of church communities that make that Body which is spread all over the world. In doing so, he does not make any distinctions between them. The church is the body of Christ, of which He is the head. Ephesians 1:22–23 says, “And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.” The body of Christ is made up of all believers in Jesus Christ from the day of Pentecost (Acts 2) until Christ’s return. Biblically, we may regard the church in two ways, as the universal church or as the local church.

How is the church the Body of Christ? The phrase “the Body of Christ” is a common New Testament metaphor for the Church. The Church is called “one body in Christ” in Romans 12:5, “one body” in 1 Corinthians 10:17, “the body of Christ” in 1 Cor 12:27 and Eph 4:12, and “the body” in Heb 13:3. When Christ entered our world, He took on a physical body (Heb 10:5; Phil 2:7). Through His physical body, Jesus demonstrated the love of God clearly, tangibly, and

boldly—especially through His sacrificial death on the cross (Romans 5:8). After His bodily ascension, Christ continues His work in the world through those He has redeemed—the Church now demonstrates the love of God clearly, tangibly, and boldly. In this way, the Church functions as “the Body of Christ.”

St. Paul will also help us understand the reality of the church as the Body of Christ in a couple different ways. **The first** way is through an analogy with our physical bodies. "For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ..." (Romans 12:4). The various parts of the body have different purposes, so too do we in the Body of Christ. We each have our own gifts. However, the gifts possessed by each member we do not have by random chance. "...We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us..." (Romans 12:6). God himself has given them to us. As a result St. Paul says, "...exercise them: if prophecy, in proportion to the faith; if ministry, in ministering; if one is a teacher, in teaching; if one exhorts, in exhortation; if one contributes, in generosity; if one is over others, in diligence; if one does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness" (Romans 12:6-8). We know that when a part of our own bodies does not function properly, the whole body is affected. So it is in the Body of Christ. We must use the gifts the Father has given us, if not for our own sake, then for the sake of others. **The second way** St. Paul helps us to understand the church as the Body of Christ is found in his letter to the Ephesians. He tells that the church is the bride of Christ (cf. 5:21-33). Eve, the bride, was taken from the side of Adam as he slept a deep sleep (cf. Genesis 2:21-22). Adam woke up to exclaim that she is, "...bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh..." (Genesis 2:23). The church, also, is taken from the side of the New Adam as he slept the deep sleep of death upon the cross. His side was pierced and out flowed water and blood, which represents how the church becomes the body, and thus bride of Christ, that is, through baptism and the Eucharist.

In summary, the church is not a building or a denomination. According to the Bible, the church is the body of Christ—all those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation (John 3:16; 1 Cor 12:13). Local churches are gatherings of people who claim the name of Christ. Members of a local church may or may not be members of the universal church, depending on the genuineness of their faith. The local church is where believers can fully apply the “body” principles of 1 Corinthians chapter 12—encouraging, teaching, and building one another up in the knowledge and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians reveals an astonishing catholic dimension of the Church which has its origin in God’s intention and Christ’s sacrifice. The universality of the Church is seen in descriptions that Ephesians uses for the Church. Biologically, the Church is described as the Body where different members are connected together and grow (4:16). Christ is the head of the Body (1:22; 5:23-24), he is the savior of it (5:23-24), and he loves and nurtures it (5:29). Furthermore, architecturally the Church is presented as the holy temple with apostles and prophets as the foundation and Jesus Christ as the cornerstone. This is the place where the Holy Spirit dwells (2:20-22). The epistle reveals a psychological description of the Church as a new person (2:15; 4:13), and a sociological view in which the Church is described as the family of the bride of Christ (5:23-32). Furthermore, the Church is not a product of coincidence, but was planned by God, and that plan in the past was a mystery, but now is revealed in Christ.

Division in the churches of St. Paul: In 1 Cor 1:10-17, We find Paul's positive note about the Corinthian church which he planted on his second missionary journey. They had all the spiritual gifts they needed to live the christian life to witness for Christ and to stand against paganism and immorality. But instead of using what God had given them, they were arguing over which gifts were more important (1:12-14). Eighteen months after he left, arguments and divisions arose and some church members slipped back into immoral life style. In this large and diverse Corinthian Church, the believers favored different preachers. The believers depended heavily on preaching and teaching for spiritual insight into the meaning of the OT . Some followed Paul who had founded their church and some followed Peter (Cephas) while some listened only to Apollos, an eloquent and popular preacher who had a dynamic ministry in Corinth (Acts 18:24, 19:1) Although these preachers were united in their message, their personalities attracted different people. At this time, the church was in danger of dividing. By mentioning Jesus Christ 10 times in the first ten verses, Paul makes it clear that all preachers and teachers should emphasize only Christ and his message than any human messenger. We need to be loyal and committed to Christ and his church and then his messengers.

1 Corinthians 3:1-21 "I could not talk to you as spiritual people, but as fleshly people, as infants in Christ" Corinthians were not yet spiritually healthy and mature people because they quarreled among themselves like children, allowing divisions to distract them. Paul planted the seed of the gospel message in people's hearts, laying foundation. Apollos built on that foundation. Tragically, the believers in Corinth had split into factions, pledging loyalty to different teachers. They had so many internal problems. The foundation of the church is Jesus Christ. In the church built on Jesus Christ, the leaders should bring glory to Christ and not their own popularity and each church member should be mature, spiritually sensitive and doctrinally sound. If we are deeply committed to Christ, we will not have internal problems.

1 Corinthians 6:1-6 Paul teaches how the congregation should handle smaller problems between believers. Society has set up a legal system where disagreements can be resolved in courts. But Paul declares that disagreeing Christians should not have to go to a secular court to resolve their differences. As Christians, we have the Holy Spirit and the mind of Christ, so why should we turn to those who lack God's wisdom. We should be able to deal with disputes among ourselves. Why we should not take our disagreements to unbelievers in secular courts? Firstly, If the Judge and the Jury are not christians, they are not likely to be sensitive to christians values. Secondly, the basis for going to court is often revenge; this should never be a Christian's motive. Thirdly lawsuits make the church look very bad.

1 Corinthians 11:17-34: The Lord's supper was celebrated in the early church. It included a feast or fellowship meal followed by the celebration of communion. In Corinth, the fellowship had become a time when some ate and drank excessively while others went hungry. There was little sharing and caring. This exposed disunity and lack of love and Paul condemned these actions and reminded them of the real purpose of the Lord's supper that is strengthening our faith in Christ through fellowship and other believers.

Sadly, in our day there are churches in which leaders and some ministers try to dominate their congregations rather than shepherd them in the model of the selfless love of Jesus. But those bad examples do not take away the biblical command to gather and worship as a church. Local

churches undoubtedly have their flaws, because they are made up of flawed and sinful people. As we come into the church we sometimes imagine that there will be no problems, no conflicts, and no frustrations among our community of saints. But we forget that we are a community of flawed people. It is precisely because of our flaws and faults that we need each other. (The church is not a club of saints but a hospital of sinners- unknown) \

What are the benefits of going to Church? Church Connects us with God: when we are inside the church, we are connected to God and his family. We feel closer to God. When we enter the house of God to pray and worship, we are instantly elevated to a divine space or state where we can open ourselves to God and trying to understand his message. The simple act of walking in the door brings us closer. Our church attendance connects with God and making a space for him to enter into our life.

Church gives us a chance to reflect on Gratitude: By practicing gratitude, we can overcome negativities and frustrations. Gratitude helps us to realize how blessed we are and how much we truly have. Even when things seem dire and awful, church helps us change our outlook and stop dwelling on empty questions like, “Why is this happening to me?”

Church connects us socially: A more peripheral benefit of church attendance is the way it connects us socially. This is especially true if we have recently moved to a new town or even just a new neighborhood. As a general rule, church people are pretty friendly, and most churches have a variety of social events, groups, clubs, and connection opportunities available each week. If you’re struggling to meet people or to make friends, church is the place to do it!

Church helps to connect better with one’s spouse: Couples who attend church together report higher levels of happiness and satisfaction within their marriage. Why is that? Church reconnects us to our shared beliefs. It reinforces the higher philosophy and purpose behind marriage and family and it allows us a safe space to connect with God and the spouse together. Couples who attend church together are making time to reiterate the important foundations of their marriage.

Church allows us to feel reverence: In the chaos of every day life and brokenness in family and marital life, we long for peace, quiet and reverence. When we attend church and pray, we are transported to a place of worship and peace. We feel peace, quiet and joy when we walk into the church. It makes us compassionate, humble, charitable and holy and the ability to listen to the preaching on the word of God. It gives us equanimity to handle hardships.

Church teaches us Forgiveness: Many find it hard to let go of disappointments, frustrations, hurts and annoyances. Forgiveness is one of the hardest lessons to learn and yet, when are finally able to let things go, it can take a huge weight off our shoulders. There’s no better place to be reminded of the gift of forgiveness than at the church.

Church fills our hearts with Song: Listening to hymns and religious music can uplift us and give us messages we may not otherwise hear. It’s amazing how open our hearts can become through song, and how sometimes even the weight of the world can be lifted off our shoulders the moment we hear the entrance hymn. Through music, we feel more spiritually connected

because song is a conduit to God. We can feel joy and happiness by listening to music with a great message, then carrying that song in our hearts all week long.

Church is where we find deeper meaning in our Lives: In our most frustrated and stressed-out moments, we sometimes find ourselves wondering, “What’s the point?” When we feel despair, sorrow, frustration and stress, it’s easy to lose sight of the greater plan and purpose that’s out there for all of us. We might even feel alone and isolated from God and from other people. But when we go to church, we’re given a greater sense of purpose and meaning.

Church is a school of Christ: In the school of Christ, we are ever students, prayerfully learning and meditatively listening to the eternal truths about Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. The focal point of local church ministry is to clearly teach and preach the Word of God. The Pastoral Epistles (1 and 2 Timothy and Titus) are teeming with instruction for church leaders on making the Scriptures a priority in the church. For example, 1 Tim 4:6 provides clear direction on the importance of an effective teaching ministry, and 1 Tim 4:2 commands pastors and elders to, “Preach the Word.” It is true that followers of Christ can and should study the Word on their own. However, learning under the sound preaching and teaching ministry of pastors and other church leaders is imperative for anyone’s spiritual growth (1 Pet 2:2 and Eph 4:14).

Church is God’s avenue for believers to utilize their spiritual gifts: Another important reason for attending church regularly is that church is the place where believers can and should practice their God-given spiritual gifts. Romans 12:3-8 and 1 Corinthians 12 are emphatic about the fact that every believer is the recipient of one or more spiritual gifts that are God-given enablements to effectively serve Him in the church. God never intended the church to be for spectators who just show up for a performance on a Sunday morning. He designed His church to be a place for believers to participate in church functions by utilizing their spiritual gifts either in a public setting or privately with other believers. Believers are to *love one another* (Rom 13:8), *comfort one another* (1 Thes 4:18), *forgive one another* (Eph 4:32), *pray for one another* (James 5:16), and a host of other mutual admonitions. It’s at church where believers can find older, Godly mentors (Titus 2:1-8), and where Christ-followers can truly have *fellowship with one another* (1 I John 1:7).

Church is God’s outlet for outreach and evangelism: The church is the place for effective evangelism, outreach, and global missions to take place as well. The book of Acts chronicles the story of the growth of the early church and features accounts of personal evangelism, group outreach, and international missionary endeavors. Outreach in the New Testament was always accomplished through the vehicle of the church. It’s obvious from a thorough study of the scriptures that the local church is to equip and train God’s people to reach others for Christ and then to send them out to accomplish that mission. **God designed His church to fulfill the Great Commission to make disciples.** The last thing Christ said to His disciples is what has commonly been called “the Great Commission” where He left the lasting imperative to “make disciples” (Matthew 28:19-20) for His people to follow.

A time line of the Church and modern Christian traditions: There are three main branches under Christianity

1. **Roman Catholic Church (51%)**: Roman Catholicism refers to the huge worldwide group of Christians who identify themselves as being in communion with the bishop of Rome, Pope.
2. **Orthodox Eastern Church of 11th century (11%)** : This church represents the dominant form of worship in Greece and in a large region of eastern Europe.
3. **Protestant churches of 16th century (36%)**: protestantism is an umbrella term for a set of tractions that came into existence after the Protestant Reformation

Difference between Church, Denomination and Sect: Within the Christian tradition, most might describe their organization as a “church”. In everyday usage, we use the word church as a fairly generic descriptor for both the organizations and the buildings of organized Christian religion. Denominations are the different branches of the Christian church, born from historical schisms (e.g. Roman Catholic, Anglican, Methodist, etc.) and sects are much smaller organizations. However, sociologists and theologians have not always used these terms in quiet that way.

Church: They claim a monopoly over the truth. They claim that their position is true and that the views of religious groups are false. They are closely connected to the higher authorities. They have a developed, hierarchical bureaucratic structure. There will be clear lines of seniority in the clergy and hold a number of rules and regulations. People are often born into a church, rather than choosing it. Indeed, they are likely to be included in the church before they are old enough to understand its teachings. They are not generally expected to prove their faith or commitment. Roman Catholic Church is a clear example of a church.

Sect: It is an organization that broke away from a church (through a schism) because they were dissatisfied with its teachings or practices. This would be a small-scale schism with the sect formed by dissatisfied members of a congregation rather than a split towards the top of the hierarchy. They do not have a complex, bureaucratic hierarchy, instead usually being led by a charismatic leader. They are small. They demand total commitment from members, and therefore are not accessible without significant sacrifices on the part of members.

Denomination: They are between church and sect, not closely connected to the state Their membership is larger than a sect but smaller than an established church. They have some bureaucracy and hierarchy, but less than an established church. They often do not claim a monopoly over the truth being quite accepting of other denominations, churches and religions. Examples would be the Methodists and the Baptists of today.

BE PROUD OF BEING A CATHOLIC

One question for non Catholics? Who founded your church? Founded by God or Men? There can only be one true Church of Christ. There are thousands of denominations claiming to have the true doctrine, the true interpretations of Scripture and all claim to be led by the Holy Spirit. But the Holy Spirit is not the author of confusion. They can't be all right. What if you belonged to the wrong church? Wouldn't you want to know? Obviously the Original Church that Jesus Christ established is the true Church. What is the truth? But throughout history, evil men have risen up

and created counterfeit churches and have led people into heresy. Let us look into the past and see which church our Lord Jesus Christ founded and which churches were founded by Men.

If you belong to the **Assyrian Church of the East**, your church split from the Catholic Church in 431 AD when the Assyrian bishops rejected the Council of Ephesus.

If you belong to **the Oriental Orthodox Church**, your church split from the Catholic Church in 451 AD when certain Eastern bishops rejected the council of Chalcedon.

If you belong to Eastern Orthodox church, your church split from the Catholic Church in 1054 AD.

If you belong to **Lutheran church**, your church was started by Martin Luther in 1517 AD. Luther was an Augustinian monk who left the Catholic Church and became the founder of Protestantism. He taught blatant heresies such as justification by faith alone and sola scriptura. He even added the word 'alone' to Roman 3:8 and wanted the book of James thrown out of the bible because it said 'not by faith alone' (James 2:24). He also broke his vow of celibacy and married a nun.

If you belong to **the Anglican Church**, your church was founded by king Henry VIII of England in 1534 AD. Henry VIII split from the Catholic Church and started the Anglican church because the Pope would not let him have a divorce (Mt 19:9).

If you are a **Calvinist**, your theology was invented by John Calvin in 1555 AD. Calvinism teaches heresies like limited atonement which says that Jesus did not die for all men but only for the elect yet the bible says that God wills all men to be saved (1 Tim 2:4). Calvin also proclaimed that men cannot lose his salvation but the bible says that men can lose (1 Cor 9:27; Heb 6:4-6, 2 pet 2:20-22). St. Paul said "For there must be also heresies among you that which are approved may be made manifest among you (1 Cor 11:19).

If you belong to a **Presbyterian Church**, your church was founded by John Knox in 1560 Ad .

If you belong to the **Baptist church**, your church was founded by John Smyth in 1609.

If you belong to the **Methodist church**, your church was founded in 1739 by John and Charles Wesley who broke away from the Anglican Church.

If you are an **Episcopalian**, your church was founded by Sam Seabury in 1789 AD. The Episcopalian church is the American version of the Anglican Church. Today it is one of the most liberal churches around. Allowing homo sexual unions and other moral evils.

If you belong to the **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day saints (the Mormon Church)**, your church was founded by Joseph Smith in 1830 AD. Joseph Smith taught that God was once a man living on another planet and progressed to godhood. He also taught that men can become gods and rule over their own planets. Smith also practiced polygamy and taught that you needed to have multiple wives in order to become a god. This is blasphemy. The bible says that there is only one God. "Before me there was no God formed and there will be none after me"(Isaiah 43:10).

If you belong to **the Church of Christ**, your church was founded by Warren Stone and Alexander Campbell in 1836 AD. How can you call your church "the Church of Christ" if Christ has already founded his own church over 1800 years earlier?

If you are a **seventh day Adventist**, your church was founded by Ellen G White in 1844 AD. Ellen white taught that the Pope was the antichrist because the title “vicarius fili dei” adds up to 666 in Latin but the Pope’s title is “vicar of Christ” not “vicarius fili dei” and vicar of Christ does not add up to 666. Ironically enough, Ellen G White’s own name adds up to 666 in Latin. Besides the NT was written in Greek and Latin and the NT writers spoke Aramaic not Latin. Adventists also worship on Saturday instead of Sunday, contrary to what the early Christians practiced (Acts 20:7).

If you are a **Jehovah witness**, your church was founded by Charles Taze Russel in 1874 AD. Jehovah witnesses deny the divinity of Christ and claim that he is really the incarnate St. Michael the archangel yet Hebrews 1:5 says that no angel was called “the Son” as Christ was. The Jehovah witnesses have also corrupted the sacred Scriptures in their New World Translation.

If you are a **Pentecostal**, your church was founded by Charles F. Parkham in 1901 AD.

If you belong to **the Assemblies of God**, United Church of Christ, Calvary chapel, Born-Again Movement or any one of the countless non denominational churches, your churches were founded by various protestant ministers in the last 100 years.

But if you are a catholic, your church was founded in 33 AD by our Lord Jesus Christ Himself. The Catholic Church is the bride of Christ and she has remained faithful to her husband’s teaching for over 2000 years. She is the pillar and foundation of Truth (1 Tim 3:15). Jesus is calling all to be a part of his True Church, The Catholic Church. Forsake the traditions of men and hold fast to the traditions of the Apostles (2 Thes 2:15). Jesus is waiting for you in the Holy Eucharist. Founded upon the rock of Peter, the gates of hell have not prevailed against her and nobody can truly claim Christ except in her. Pray every day to our Blessed Mother for she always points to her divine son. I pray that all might find the fullness of the Truth in Jesus Christ and His Catholic Church. Contend earnestly for the faith, once delivered to the saints” Jude 1:3

The difficulty explaining why I am Catholic is that there are 10,000 reasons all amounting to one reason: that Catholicism is true. (G.K. Chesterton)