

What the Church Is... And Can Be

Ephesians 3:10

Through followers of Jesus like yourselves gathered in churches, this extraordinary plan of God is becoming known and talked about even among the angels!

**What the Bible
teaches us about the
visible church...**

1. The visible church is where Christ is present and at work.

Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

- Matthew 18:20

2. The visible church is a divine community.

Not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

- Hebrews 10:25

**3. The visible church is where I
spiritually mature in Christlikeness.**

4. The visible church is where I discover and use my spiritual gifts.

Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others.

- 1 Corinthians 12:1 & 1 Peter 4:10

**5. The visible church is my
spiritual family.**

**6. The visible church helps me fulfill
Christ's Great Commission.**

***Therefore go and make disciples of all
nations, baptizing them in the name of the
Father and of the Son and of the Holy
Spirit.***

- Matthew 28:19

7. The visible church is what Jesus died for.

Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

- Ephesians 5:25b

8. The visible church is what Jesus will return for.

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves....

Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. So encourage each other with these words.

- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18