

CatClub: Question 48



This week we tackle the subject of the Church. No, not the building, but the people who belong to it!

1. Q48 asks: What is the Church? Answer: **God chooses and preserves for himself a community elected for eternal life and united by faith who love, follow, learn from and worship God together. God sends out this community to proclaim the gospel and prefigure Christ's kingdom by the quality of their life together and their love for one another.**

Please note: 'to prefigure' means 'to foreshadow', 'to look forward to'.

2. Investigation - please look up:

1. (In the New Testament) 2 Thessalonians chapter 2, verse 13. Here Paul confirms that the Church is **a group of believers loved and chosen by God from eternity past**.

2. (In the New Testament) Ephesians chapter 2, verses 19-20. In these verses Paul reminds the Christians in Ephesus from a non-Jewish background that they are now united with those from a Jewish background. **Today this serves to remind us that the Church has become a worldwide body of believers from many different backgrounds, ethnicities and nations – all united by faith in Jesus and the truth of the Bible.** (Here 'apostles' means the New Testament; 'prophets' means the Old Testament).

3. (In the New Testament) Romans chapter 12, verses 4-5. These verses tell us that **the Church consists of many different people, with many different gifts and talents given by God – but all united by faith in Jesus**.

4. (In the New Testament) Romans chapter 12, verses 10-13. A few verses later Paul reminds the Christians in Rome that **the Church is to be characterised above all by love for fellow-Christians**.

5. (In the New Testament) Matthew chapter 28, verses 18-20. Before Jesus ascended back to heaven **he commanded his followers to go and make disciples (=believers) throughout the world**. The Christian Church is therefore a missionary Church.

Next week's question: Where is Christ now?

This week's songs: 'We are the body'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OYOCdVI9m1Q>

'O church arise!'

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x63cVewXAeg&list=PL_2zu3FqXqoBiw7tmT-ZUyprZV90JDMqR

2 Thessalonians 2:13

¹³ But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God *chose you as the firstfruits*^[a] to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.

[a] Some manuscripts say: *chose you from the beginning*

Ephesians 2:19-20

¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone...

Romans 12:4-5

⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Romans 12:10-13

¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honour.
¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

(slothful = lazy; fervent = heartfelt; tribulation = times of trouble; constant = faithful)

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."