



ECCLESIOLOGY

Why is there a need for Biblical Ecclesiology?



Why is there a need for Biblical Ecclesiology?

Because we tend to define the church by the way it interacts with the world. We define it *existentially*.



What is Ecclesiology?

1. Ecclesiology comes from two Greek words meaning “assembly” and “word” meaning “**the study of the church.**”
2. The church is the assembly of believers who belong to God



Where did the Church come from?

God

GENESIS 1:1-2

1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.



Where did the Church come from?

Creation

GENESIS 2:1-3

1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 2 And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. 3 So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.



Where did the Church come from?

Sin

GENESIS 3:22-24

22 Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” 23 therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken.



Where did the Church come from?

Sin

GENESIS 3:22-24

24 He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.



Where did the Church come from?

Covenant

GENESIS 15:18

18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land...”



Where did the Church come from?

Exile

NEHEMIAH 9:35-37

35 Even in their own kingdom, and amid your great goodness that you gave them, and in the large and rich land that you set before them, they did not serve you or turn from their wicked works. 36 Behold, we are slaves this day; in the land that you gave to our fathers to enjoy its fruit and its good gifts, behold, we are slaves.



Where did the Church come from?

Exile

NEHEMIAH 9:35-37

37 And its rich yield goes to the kings whom you have set over us because of our sins. They rule over our bodies and over our livestock as they please, and we are in great distress...



Where did the Church come from?

Restoration

DEUTERONOMY 30:1-6

1 And when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the Lord your God has driven you, 2 and return to the Lord your God, you and your children, and obey his voice in all that I command you today, with all your heart and with all your soul,



Where did the Church come from?

Restoration

DEUTERONOMY 30:1-6

3 then the Lord your God will restore your fortunes and have mercy on you, and he will gather you again from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you. 4 If your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there the Lord your God will gather you, and from there he will take you.



Where did the Church come from?

Restoration

DEUTERONOMY 30:1-6

5 And the Lord your God will bring you into the land that your fathers possessed, that you may possess it. And he will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers. 6 And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.



Where did the Church come from?

Restoration

JEREMIAH 31:33

33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.



Where did the Church come from?

Restoration

ROMANS 2:28-29

28 For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. 29 But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.



Where did the Church come from?

Restoration

ROMANS 2:14-15

14 For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. 15 They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them



Where did the Church come from?

New Creation – New Heavens, New Earth

GALATIANS 6:13-15

13 For even those who are circumcised do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. 14 But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which[a] the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.



Where did the Church come from?

New Creation – New Heavens, New Earth

REVELATION 21:5

And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”



Where did the Church come from?

The Church: Continuous and Discontinuous

HEBREWS 8:1-2

1 Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, 2 a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man.



Where did the Church come from?

The Church: Continuous and Discontinuous

HEBREWS 8:1-2

Everything that points to Yahweh is **fulfilled** in Jesus

1. Jew's Response
2. Gentile's Response
3. Follower's Response



Where did the Church come from?

The Church: Continuous and Discontinuous

- The **Ecclesia** (“assembly”) have always been called out “called out ones” from the world by Yahweh. We live as those people but now under the authority of Jesus Christ and based on that relationship.
- Everything that was thought to be attributed to Yahweh is now **perfectly revealed** in Jesus.



Where did the Church come from?

The Church: Continuous and Discontinuous

- These new people – those whose allegiance is given to Christ – are **the people of God** and not the ethnic Jew.
- **Continuity**: has always been the people of God
- **Discontinuity**: the Spirit, not the law, now constitutes who the people of God are.
- Salvation, life, goals, meaning it is all wrapped up in Jesus – and nothing else.



Where did the Church come from?

The Church: Continuous and Discontinuous

Jesus birthed a **continual movement**

He established a **kingdom**, and sits as the King



Where did the Church come from?

Beginning with Christ-Centered Ecclesiology

Ecclesiology starts with an **ontological connection** between Jesus and the church.

- Its **existence** starts and continues from Jesus
- Its **conversation** starts and continues from Jesus



Where did the Church come from?

Beginning with Christ-Centered Ecclesiology

1. The Church finds it being solely in Jesus Christ
2. The Church should be what Jesus is in that Jesus is the Lord of the Church



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2. The Church should be what Jesus is in that Jesus is the Lord of the Church

If the above statements are true, then:

The Church is not:

1. Primarily an institution
2. Primarily a voluntary collection of free, religiously and ethically motivated individuals
3. Primarily a self-determining, self-governing body that determines who it is and what it does.



Where did the Church come from?

Beginning with Christ-Centered Ecclesiology

It is Christ alone who determines the “**who**” and the “**what**” of the church.

As such, the church **belongs** to Christ, not to itself.

The church is not self-referenced, it **points away from itself and towards Christ**.



Where did the Church come from?

Our Path to Christ-Centered Ecclesiology

- I. What is the Church?
- II. The Mission and Purpose of the Church
- III. The Nature of the Church
- IV. Church Government and the Gospel
- V. Church Membership and the Gospel
- VI. The Word and the Church
- VII. The Sacraments and the Gospel
- VIII. Church Discipline and the Gospel
- IX. Prayer, Kingdom Extension and Living





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