

# The Terre Haute **Speaker**

*“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).*

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## **The Church in Ephesians**

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**P**aul’s writing to the Ephesians may be called God’s Church Letter as it says so much about the church.

***The Church Is Headed By Christ.*** God “hath put all things under his feet, and gave him [Christ] to be the head over all things to the church” (Ephesians 1:22). It is written again, “But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, [who is the head, Paul?] even Christ” (Ephesians 4:15). Using the husband/wife relationship to speak concerning Christ and the church, Paul penned, “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church...” (Ephesians 5:23). Is there any question as to who the head is?

***The Church Is the Body of Christ.*** The divine definition of the church is set forth in these words: “...the church, which is [what is the church?] his body” (Ephesians 1:22-23). Christ and the church go together like a head and body. To say, “Give me Christ, but I don’t want anything to do with the church,” is to be guilty of spiritual decapitation, and that is deadly!

***The Church Is the Fulness of Christ.*** Paul revealed the church is “...the fulness of him that filleth all in all” (Ephesians 1:23). Thus, whatever is available in Christ cannot be received outside His spiritual body, the church. Just what is in Christ? All spiritual blessings

(Ephesians 1:3), redemption (Romans 3:24), the promise of life (2 Timothy 1:1) and salvation (2 Timothy 2:10), to name a few. If a person wants these advantages, where must he be? In the Lord’s church!

***The Church Is the Realm of the Reconciled.*** Ephesians 2:16 states, “And that he might reconcile both unto God [where?] in one body...” Remember what the body is? “...the church” (Ephesians 1:22-23). Reconciliation has to do with those who are “far off” being “made nigh” unto God (Ephesians 2:13). Why be far off, when you can be nigh?

***The Church Is Singular in Number.*** Did you notice how many bodies Paul mentioned? “...one body” (Ephesians 2:16). Ephesians 4:4 plainly teaches, “There is one body...” Since there is one body, and the body is the church, how many churches does the Bible speak of? Just one. Though there may be lots of different churches in existence today, having originated at different times and places, wearing different names and teaching different doctrines, it is still true that there is but one church. It’s pretty important then that we locate it and become members of it, right?

***The Church Is God’s Household.*** Paul told the Ephesians, “Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of

God” (Ephesians 2:19). As a member of the Lord’s church, one is part of God’s family, as Paul wrote Timothy, “...the house of God, which is the church of the living God...” (1 Timothy 3:15). There are several things implied by the term *household*: (1) *A Father*. God is the Father as there is “one God, and Father of all...” (Ephesians 4:6). (2) *Children*. “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:26). (3) *An Inheritance*. “And if children, then heirs...” The inheritance of the child of God is described as “incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you” (1 Peter 1:4). I want that, don’t you?

***The Church Is the Temple of God.*** “In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord” (Ephesians 2:21). The term *temple* suggests the place where God dwells among His people and they worship Him. Where does this take place? In the church.

***The Church Makes Known God’s Wisdom.*** “To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God” (Ephesians 3:10). The word “manifold” suggests that God’s wisdom is many-sided. From every side you look at the church, you see God’s wisdom expressed.

***The Church Is According to God’s Eternal Purpose.*** “According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Ephesians 3:11). This tells me the church was not an afterthought and is not here by accident. God is the divine architect of the church, having planned it from the beginning of the world.

***The Church Is Where Glory Is Given unto God.*** “Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus...” (Ephesians 3:21). Some today talk about the church getting the glory. This passage says glory is given to God in the church. If glory is given to God in the church, what does this say about those who are not in the church?

***The Church Is the Sphere of the Saved.*** Christ is “...the saviour of the body” (Ephesians 5:23). Since it is true that there is one saviour (the saviour) and one body (the body), and Christ is the saviour of the body, just where are the saved? In the church.

***The Church Is Subject unto Christ.*** Paul declared, “Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ...” (Ephesians 5:24). The church operates by the direction of Christ, doing all things “in his name” or by His authority (Colossians 3:17).

Let’s respect what the Bible teaches about the church!

**The Terre Haute Speaker** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

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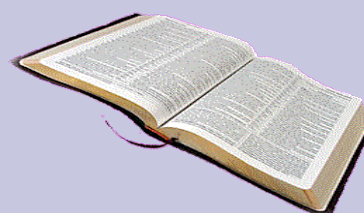
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**Assembling Times:**

Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.



***The Bible  
Is Our  
Only Guide!***