

The Church is a building (**Myth #2**) out of which employed “religious professionals” do the work of ministry (**Myth #3**).

The Church consists of all true believers who are covenanted together in fellowship for the purpose of growing as one and working with God to carry out his plan for the world.

1) *The Church consists of all true believers...*

a) Definition of “Church” (*ekklesia*): “called out ones.”

Acts 11:22 News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch

1Cor. 16:19 The churches of Asia send greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, greet you warmly in the Lord.

1Cor. 1:2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...

The Invitation to the Banquet (Mt 22:1-14)

Matt. 22:9 Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.'

John 14:16-18 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.

2) The Church consists of all true believers *who are covenanted together in fellowship...*

Acts 2:42 –46. [The new believers] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching *and fellowship...* All who believed *were together* and had all things in common...Day by day, as they *spent much time together* in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts.

3) The Church consists of all true believers *who are covenanted together in fellowship for the purpose of growing as one and working with God to carry out his plan for the world.*

Matt. 16:18-19 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

I Cor. 3:9; 6:1 We are God's *fellow
workers...*

