

Revision: Rethinking Church I

Revision means to look over again in order to correct or improve.

Rethink means to engage in reconsideration.

Review means to examine or study again.

Reengage means to come back together and interlock again for pursuit of a purpose.

Consider *Ephesians 1:15 -23*

Focus on...

NLT Ephesians 1: 22 God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the **benefit of the church**.²³ **And the church is his body**; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.

I

The church is the gathering of God's people.

NLT Matthew 16:18 Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.

"I will build my church"

The church is His by ownership.

The church is ours by stewardship.

- *The church is the place of leadership, relationship and stewardship.*

II

The word church ecclesia is gathering of governmental officials.

g1577. ἐκκλησία ekklēsia; from a compound of 1537 and a derivative of 2564; a calling out, i.e. (concretely) a popular meeting, especially a religious congregation

(Jewish synagogue, or Christian community of members on earth or saints in heaven or both): — assembly, church.

AV (118) - church 115, assembly 3;

1. a gathering of citizens called out from their homes into some public place, an assembly,
2. an assembly of the people convened at the public place of the council for the purpose of deliberating
3. the assembly of the Israelites any gathering or throng of men assembled by chance, tumultuously in a Christian sense an assembly of Christians gathered...

The gathering is to hear the proceeding word of God.

Consider *Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22*

- *The gathering is to hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.*

III

The church is a gathering or governmental embassy of diplomats.

The church is a gathering of ambassadors.

NLT 2 Corinthians 5:20 So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. **We speak for Christ** when we plead, "Come back to God!"

An ambassador is an appointed diplomatic official of highest order, sent from his home, into a foreign land to represent the interest of his home.

Our home is the kingdom of God.

Kingdom provides food, clothes and shelter for its ambassadors.

KJV Matthew 6:31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? ³² (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all

these things. ³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.