

## 9

## Composition of a Church

As you know, the term “church” means the “called out ones”, for that is what we are. There are three things we must understand about this term. First, you as an individual are the temple of the Lord where your heart is the altar. Second is the visible local church or fellowship; and Third, the universal church that includes all of God's people from all the ages past, present and future from all nations.

The homework was to read 1 Peter 2 and discover various terms that are applied to you as God's household or a temple of the Lord. Each term relays a different aspect of the position and relationship you have in Christ.

Discuss what these terms from 1 Peter 2 mean and what they reveal.

- Living stones v 5
- Holy priesthood v5
- Chosen people v9
- Royal priesthood v9
- Holy nation v9
- The people of God v10
- Aliens and strangers in the world v11

It becomes obvious that as believers we have a new relationship with the world around us. Now we have become *“a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light”* (1 Peter 2:9). This means that you as an individual believer were created to worship with other individual believers to form the local visible church.

*On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.*

~ Acts 14:27

### Note the makeup of the church:

Acts 2:41 -  
James 5:14 -  
1 Corinthians 14:26 -  
Ephesians 4:11-13-

The local church has a job, and that is to be a place of worship, a body to edify one another and the means to reach others.

The church meets on Sunday as the first day of the week to follow the example of the day of Christ's resurrection (Mark 16:9; John 20:19; Acts 20:7).

### The leadership of the church

In the New Testament you will find various terms of leadership:

- Overseer (Bishop)
- Shepherd (Pastor)
- Elder

These terms are all applied to the same person, yet reveal different functions of the same job. Notice the interchanging of the terms:

- 1 Peter 2:25
- 1 Peter 5:1-4
- Acts 20:28

To hold to this office there are spiritual qualifications that must be met prior to obtaining the position as laid down in 1 Timothy 3.

The second office is that of a “deacon” which literally means “servant”. Acts 6 is the story of the church choosing the first deacons to serve in the affairs of the church. They too had spiritual qualifications that must be met prior to obtaining the position as laid down in 1 Timothy 3.

### Service of the church

Element of church must include:

- 1 Timothy 4:13
- Acts 18:5
- Acts 14:27
- Acts 14:23
- Acts 2:47
- Philippians 4:15

