

Say hello to Priscilla and Aquila, who have worked hand in hand with me in serving Jesus. They once put their lives on the line for me. And I’m not the only one grateful to them. All the non-Jewish gatherings of believers also owe them plenty, to say nothing of the **church** that meets in their **house**.

Romans 16:3-5



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What Is the Church?”

Deep and Wide Sermon Series

January 14, 2018

 What happens when you Google the word “church?” \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 How does that church meet in a house? (Romans 16:3-5)

 The early church was led by men and women who were fueled not

 by what they believed, but by what they had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 Today, more than a \_\_\_\_\_\_ of the world’s population claims some

 kind of faith in Jesus.

 We help determine what comes to mind for the next generation

 when they hear the term \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It is not a political party.

I. **What does the Bible say?** (Matthew 16:15-18)

 The Greek word for *church* is ***ekklesia****.* It is not a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ term.

 **εκκλησιαν** was a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of people for a specific purpose.

 Our specific purpose is to help non-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and

non-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Christians become radical Christ followers.

 *Church is the local expression of the presence of Jesus.*

* *Andy Stanley*

 What is the presence of Jesus? (John 1:14)

 Jesus is the perfect Son of God full of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 G\_\_\_\_\_\_ is unmerited favor of God toward all people; not earned.

 T\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is what is real; how things really are.

**II. Three temptations for the Church**

Getting \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Constantine) moving from movement *ekklesia*

 to location: *basilica* (Latin) or *kirche* (Gothic German).

G\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ without \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is license. (Loving but directionless)

 T\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ without \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is judgment. (Shame & Guilt)

*Truth is just as mean as Grace is nice… All Truth’s followers do is scowl and scream. How about if we try mixing Grace and Truth? – Dr. Henry Cloud*

**Action Step:** How will I be a part of God’s movement this week?

 How will I share both grace and truth simultaneously?

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