



What Is the Church?
Revelation 5:5-13
September 19, 2021
Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this sermon we explain the seven attributes drawn from Scripture that describe and define the church.

The Text: Revelation 5:5-13

⁵ And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.” ⁶ And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. ⁸ And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, ¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.” ¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” ¹³ And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

The Bible provides us with seven attributes that answer the question, “What is the church?”

(a) *The church is the pleasure of God.*

(b) *The church is the people of God.*

(c) *The church is the presence of God.*

(d) *The church is the power of God.*

(e) *The church is the proclamation of God.*

(e) *The church is the provision of God.*

(g) *The church is the purpose of God.*

Response

The church is how God ministers to his people and the world!

Sunday Text Questions for Revelation 5:5-13 (“I Will Build My Church” Series)

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- 1) Starter Question: How would you define “the church” to a new Christian?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) If you think of Revelation as a *lens* to see and not a *code* to decipher, what does this passage reveal about the ultimate gathering of the people of God?
- 4) What is the significance of the statement in v. 6: “a lamb ... as though it had been slain?”
- 5) What does this passage as a whole proclaim about Christ?
- 6) Since v. 9 claims the Lamb “ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,” how should our local church gathering point to and reflect this truth and future reality?
- 7) Based on v. 10, how is the church “a kingdom and priests to our God?”
- 8) What does the scene in vv. 11-13 explain about the worth of Christ and the nature of worship when the full church gathers at the end of history?
- 9) Why must all creation say, “Worthy is the Lamb” (v. 12)?
- 10) How should this picture of the future church direct how you think about and treat your local church?

Further study this week: Passages on the church: Isaiah 43:1-7 (Mon); Genesis 12:1-3 (Tues); Acts 1:8 (Wed); Matthew 28:18-20 (Thurs); 2 Corinthians 5:20 (Fri).