



What Connects a Christian to a Church?

Revelations 21:1-7

October 10, 2021

Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this sermon we examine the four ways Scripture connects a Christian to their local church.

The Text: Revelations 21:1-7

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." ⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. ⁷ The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son."

- "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation" (2 Cor 5:17).
- "the church of God that is ... sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together" (1 Cor 1:2).
- "you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God" (Eph 2:19).
- "In [Christ] you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit" (Eph 2:22).

The biblical connection between a Christian and a local church can be explained in four ways:

- (1) As **Christ's bride**, a church is where Christians are united to the Lord under the new covenant as **his marriage partner**.
- (2) As **the Father's children**, a church is where Christians live with and love one another as **members of God's family**.
- (3) As **Christ's body**, a church is where Christians are assigned to care for and serve one another as **ministry associates**.
- (4) As **Christ's ambassadors**, a church is where Christians participate in mission in the community and the world as **missionary associates**.

Response

Your local church is the primary people and place...

where your relationship with God happens,

where your relationship with Christian family happens,

and where you are assigned to do ministry and mission.

Sunday Text Questions for Revelations 21:1-7 (“I Will Build My Church” Series)

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- 1) Starter Question: How has a local church been helpful to you and your walk with Christ?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) Based upon v. 1, when will this event take place?
- 4) What is the significance of the holy city “coming down out of heaven from God” (v. 2)?
- 5) Reflecting on v. 3, how is the incarnation of Jesus the start of this reality?
- 6) How does v. 4 offer hope to Christians, especially those who are suffering?
- 7) How do vv. 5-7 emphasize the greatness of Jesus Christ?
- 8) Is there any biblical warrant for not actively participating in a local church?
- 9) Why are there so many people who claim to be Christians but do not participate regularly or at all in a local church?
- 10) What does healthy participation in a local church look like for a Christian?

Further study this week: Passages on the gathered church: Hebrews 10:24-25 (Mon); Colossians 3:16 (Tues); 1 Corinthians 14:26 (Wed); Acts 2:42-47 (Thurs); Psalm 50:5 (Fri).