

## Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. What is your understanding of “church?” Do you think it is important to have a clear understanding of the purpose of the church?
2. In what ways has your experience of church been good and/or bad?
3. In what ways do you (and all of us) need to grow so that we can become a good representation of the biblical understanding of church?
4. Do you think it is possible to be the church (called out people) without actually belonging and attending a local congregation? George Barna (in his book, *Revolution*) suggests that more and more Christians in the U.S.A. will choose to not belong to a local congregation. Is it possible to *be* the church and not *go* to church?
5. As a congregation we desire to make a difference in our own community and around the world. Take time to think of ways that you (or you and your Sunday school class, or you and your small group, or you and your family, and/or friends) can make a difference to other people in this community.

**Please be sure to put Sunday, September 30 in your calendar as our special “Don’t *just* go to church—*be* the church” day. Plan to get involved in some of the activities that are being planned for that day.**

## Don’t *Just* Go To Church: *Be* the Church!

Sermon Series: Don’t *Just* Go To Church: *Be* the Church!  
Pastor Alan Robinson, September 2, 2007

*When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”*

*“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”*

*Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”*

*Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”*

Matthew 16:13-19 (church Bible page 694)

*Paul, Silas and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; Grace and peace to you. We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 Thessalonians 1:1-3 (church Bible page 835)

**“Church” or “Congregation” or “Gathering” or “Meeting” or “Assembly”?**

**Ekklesia (used well over 100 times in the New Testament)**

'ek' meaning \_\_\_\_\_

'kaleo' meaning \_\_\_\_\_

*Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.*  
Acts 5:11 (church Bible page 774)

*The assembly was in confusion:...*  
Acts 19:32 (church Bible page 787)

*If there is anything further you want to bring up, it must be settled in a legal assembly.*  
Acts 19:39 (church Bible page 787)

*After he had said this, he dismissed the assembly.*  
Acts 19:41 (church Bible page 787)