

What Does the Bible Tell Us About the Church?

"The Church's Membership"

Selected Scriptures

- ***tanniyn*** (תַּנִּינָה) = Dragon, Serpent, Monster, Sea Monster, & Whale (Jer. 51:34; cf. Gen. 1:21; Ex. 7:9, 10, 12; Deut. 32:33; Neh. 2:13; Job 7:12; Ps. 74:13; 91:13; 148:7; Isa. 27:1; 51:9; Ezek. 29:3; 32:2)
- ***levyathan*** (לְוִיתָן) = leviathan (cf. Job 41:1; Ps. 74:14; 104:26; Isa. 27:1)
- ***bahāmōt*** (בָּהָמוֹת) = behemoth (Job 40:15-18)

I. Their N_____ (Acts 2:40-42, 46-47; 4:4: 5:14; 6:7)

- a. The Holy Spirit continued to add new **souls** to the early church, which infers that there was some way to determine who was already counted in **their number**, who was NOT, and who was being added.

II. W_____, C_____, & A_____ You (Acts 6:1-3)

- a. We continue to see the idea that souls are being added to their **number**
- b. The controversy between Greek speaking **widows** and Hebrew speaking **widows** in the early church infers that there was some kind of formal way to determine who was a church widow and who was NOT
- c. 1 Tim. 5:-10 lays out biblical standards for someone to be placed on a widow's **list** so they would be cared for by the church; again indicating that there was a way to track the widows inside the church verses those on the outside.
- d. The use of the term congregation infers that in a city the size of Jerusalem there was a some kind of formal way to determine who were the 5,000+ members of that church needed to be summoned.

- e. Instructing the congregation to choose men from **among you** when the group was comprised of several thousand souls, implies that there was some formal way of knowing who was **among** them and who was NOT

III. I_____ vs. O_____ the Church (1 Cor. 5:1-2, 9-13)

- a. This is a passage dealing with Church Discipline / Rescue & Restoration (cf. Matt. 18:15-22)
 - i. Sadly, the church had become tolerant of sin instead of **mourning** over it, **arrogant** about their inclusiveness, and unloving toward this man.
- b. The concepts of someone being **among you** and in **your midst** again need some way of formally knowing who is INSIDE the church and who is OUTSIDE the church.
- c. Paul's setting the record straight on not associating with a "**so-called brother**" who was engaging in long-term unrepentant sin versus engaging the lost people **of this world**, again infers that they were able to tell who a brother and who was **in the world**
- d. Paul's use of "**outsiders**" and "**within**" solidify this concept and the need for a way to determine who these people are.

IV. S_____ the Flock (1 Peter 5:1-2)

- a. The **elders among you** draws a distinction between the elders of other churches.
- b. An elder must know who in IN his flock and who is NOT, otherwise he won't know who to shepherd.