

**Additional
Notes:**

Doctrine of the Church (Ecclesiology)

ACBC Exam Theology Qs 23-24

I. Introduction [The Big Picture of God's Plan for Mankind]

How would you summarize what God's purpose is in the following passages?

- Genesis 1:26-31
- Genesis 12:1-3
- Exodus 19:1-8
- Isaiah 2:1-4
- Isaiah 42:1-4
- Revelation 21:22-22:5

Conclusion: Yahweh's intent is to have a people/nation for His own possession that functions according to Abrahamic faith and manifests righteousness as His visible representation to all His creation.

- What did the failure in the OT kingdom demonstrate the need for? (John 1:18, Hebrews 1:3)
- Now, how does the NT church relate to this? (cf. 1 Peter 2, Romans 8:28-29)

Conclusion: Whereas the OT focused primarily on ethnic Israel, the NT demonstrates that God's plan was for all ethnic groups. God's people now are in every ethnic group, and they are not coalesced in one geographical or political entity. They are the "church," the assembly of the living God (1 Tim. 3:15), who are to be the living, breathing, visible representative of the invisible God. The church furthermore anticipates the day when God will gather all His people together as His own possession to rule and reign over the works of His hands under His beloved son, Jesus Christ.

**Additional
Notes:****II. Theological Exam Questions****Item #23: Provide a biblical description of the church.****A. The Body of Christ (Col. 1:18)**

- ****Universal Church**—The body of believers throughout all time from the inception of the church until the culmination of God's plan
- Discuss: Is it important on the exam to identify the starting point of the church? No! Why?

B. A universal living organism, not simply an organization (illustrated by physical body, (1 Cor. 12:13).

- Discuss: What is the difference between an organization and an organism?

C. Visibly manifested through local assemblies (1 Thes. 1:1; Rom. 16:16).

- ****Local Church**—At a given time in the course of history, God's people are visibly manifested in assemblies or congregations that are to be His representatives to the created order around them.

D. The local assemblies consist of:

1. Organized congregations of baptized believers (Acts 2:41-42, implicit organization--1 Thess. 5:12; Acts 6:3-5).
2. Associated together by a common faith and fellowship in the Gospel (Acts 2:41-42).
3. Led by gifted leadership (Eph. 4:11, Titus 1:5, Phil. 1:1).
4. Practicing the Lord's ordinances (Acts 2:41-42; 1 Cor. 11:23-34).

E. Under the authority of Jesus Christ who has revealed His will for the church through His word (Col. 1:18; Rev. 1:11; 1:17-20).**F. Committed to:**

1. Worshipping the one true God alone (Acts 2:47).
2. Abiding in and proclaiming truth (Acts 2:42).



3. Building up the family — “Household of God” edifying, equipping, serving God’s people (Eph. 4:11-16).

4. Being a light to the nations to draw others to the one true God (1 Peter 2:9-12).

Additional Notes:

Question #24: What role does the church play in the counseling process?

- A. 1 Tim. 3:15 — The church is the pillar and support of the truth.
- B. John 17:17 (Hebrews 4:12) — The truth of the word of God is what sanctifies.
- C. Eph. 4:11-16, --The church has been given gifted leaders to equip its members until they grow unto maturity.
- D. I Cor. 12 — The church has been given gifted members to encourage and edify one another.
- E. Matthew 18:15-20; I Cor. 5 — The church has been given the authority to keep its members accountable.

Recommended Resources

- Adams, Jay. [*Theology of Christian Counseling*](#). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1986.
- Anyabwile, Thabiti. [*What Is a Healthy Church Member?*](#) Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008.
- Bridges, Jerry. [*True Community*](#). Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2012.
- Dever, Mark. [*Nine Marks of a Healthy Church*](#). Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013.
- Dever, Mark. [*What Is a Healthy Church?*](#) Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2005.
- Dever, Mark; Dunlop, Jamie. [*Compelling Community*](#). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2015.
- Enns, Paul. [*Moody Handbook of Theology - 25th Anniversary Edition*](#). Chicago: Moody Press, 2014.
- Frame, John. [*Systematic Theology \(Frame\)*](#). Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 2013.
- Grudem, Wayne. [*Systematic Theology \(Grudem\)*](#). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1995.
- Ryrie, Charles. [*Basic Theology*](#). Chicago, IL: Moody, 1999.