

A Victorious Church in a Dark World

Samuel H. Nodal

First Question Is; “What Is A Church?”

Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where **two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.**” (Matt. 18:19,20) ESVS

Let's Identify the Attributes of the TRUE Church

1. The True Church Hears the Son Speak and Fears His Name:

Hath in **these last days spoken unto us by his Son**, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also **he made the worlds**; Who being the brightness of his glory, and **the express image of his person**, and **upholding all things by the word of his power**, when **he had by himself purged our sins**, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high. (Heb. 1:2,3)

For this reason **we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard**, so that **we do not drift away from it**. For **if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable**, and **every violation and act of disobedience received a just punishment**, **how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?** After it was at **first spoken through the Lord**, it was **confirmed to us by those who heard**, **God also testifying with them**, both **by signs and wonders**, and **by various miracles** and **by gifts of the Holy Spirit** according to His own will. (Heb. 2:1-4)

NASB

2. Man Was Made to Rule the Earth Under God the Son

For it was **not to angels that God subjected the world to come**, of which we are speaking. It has been testified somewhere, “What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? **You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, putting everything in subjection under his feet.**” Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. **At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.** (Heb. 2:5-8) ESVS

3. We Will Judge Angels

Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life? So if you have law courts dealing with matters of this life, do **you appoint them as judges who are of no account in the church?** **I say this to your shame.** Is it so, that there is not among you **anyone wise who will be able to decide between his brothers and sisters.** (1 Cor. 6:3-5) NASB

4. God Made Us Kings and Priests to Reign Upon the Earth

And hast **made us unto our God kings and priests:** and **we shall reign on the earth.** (Rev. 5:10)

5. Both, He Who Sanctifies and Those Being Sanctified Are of One Father

For both **He who sanctifies** and **those who are sanctified are all from one Father;** for this reason He is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, “I WILL PROCLAIM YOUR NAME TO MY BROTHERS, IN THE MIDST OF THE ASSEMBLY I WILL SING YOUR PRAISE.” And again, “I WILL PUT MY TRUST IN HIM.” And again, “BEHOLD, I AND THE CHILDREN WHOM GOD HAS GIVEN ME.” (Heb. 2:11-13) NASB

6. Jesus Had to Become Like His Brethren to Become a Faithful High Priest

Therefore, **in all things He had to be made like His brothers** so that He might become **a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God,** to make **propitiation for the sins of the people.** For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

(Heb. 2:17,18) NASB

7. If You Hear the Holy Spirit's Voice, Do Not Harden Your Hearts

Wherefore (**as the Holy Ghost saith, Today if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:** When **your fathers tempted me,** proved me, and saw my works forty years. Wherefore **I was grieved with that generation,** and said, **They do alway err in their heart;** and **they have not known my ways.**

So **I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.**) **Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.** But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, **if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;** While it is said, **Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts,** as in the provocation. (Heb. 3:7-15)

8. Let Us Fear if we Fall Short of the Promise and Not Enter Into His Rest

Let us therefore fear, lest, **a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.** For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but **the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.** For **we which have believed do enter into rest,** as he said, As **I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest:** although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

(Heb. 4:1-3)

This True Church has Always Been Small (Remnant)

In Noah's day the True Church got down to Eight Righteous people!

If the LORD of hosts had not left us a few survivors (*remanent*), we should have been like Sodom, and become like Gomorrah. (Is. 1:2-9) ESVS

*He is coming back for a **Glorious True Church, without spot or wrinkle!***

(Eph. 5:27) The True Church will be living Victoriously over the world, the flesh, and the devil. Living a holy life and separating itself from this world system that is sick and dying. The True church will discern right from wrong, knowing what comes from God and what comes from the devil by the power of the Holy Spirit.

God's True Church Has His Authority From Heaven

The purpose of the Church is to Legislate the Authority of Heaven on Earth.

*The Church represents Jesus Christ here on Earth using His Authority. **Jesus said;***

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock (*not Peter*)

I will build my church; and **the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**

And I will give unto thee **the keys of the kingdom of heaven:**

and **whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven:**
and **whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.**

(Matt. 16:18,19)

Behold, **I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions,**
and **over all the power of the enemy,** and **nothing shall hurt you.** Nevertheless,
do not rejoice in this, **that the spirits are subject to you,** **but rejoice that your**
names are written in heaven.” (Luke 10:19,20) ESVS

*Many in the Church today are trying to use the Name of Jesus illegally!
They are trying to use Jesus’s Authority illegitimately. They’re trying to bind the
Devil in their own authority while using the name of Jesus. They are fake ministers,
not hearing from the Holy Spirit. Without God’s Authority, the Church cannot bind
the Devil and his Demons. Our Authority comes through Jesus (Word and Spirit).
Many in the Church today are trying to steal the Glory that belongs to Jesus and
place it in some famous man. Friend, Jesus will not have any part of that.*

And upon a set day **Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne,**
and made an oration unto them. And **the people gave a shout, saying, It is the**
voice of a god, and **not of a man.** And **immediately the angel of the Lord smote**
him, because **he gave not God the glory:** and **he was eaten of worms,** and **gave**
up the ghost. (Acts 12:21-23)

Jesus is our Authority (Through the Word and the Moving of the Spirit)

They went into Capernaum; and immediately on the Sabbath **Jesus entered**
the synagogue and **began to teach.** And **they were amazed at His teaching;**
for He was teaching them as **one having authority,** and **not as the scribes.** Just
then there was a man in their synagogue **with an unclean spirit;** and **he cried out,**
saying, **“What business do you have with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come**
to destroy us? I know who You are: the Holy One of God!” And Jesus rebuked
him, saying, **“Be quiet, and come out of him!”** After **throwing him into**
convulsions and **crying out with a loud voice, the unclean spirit came out**
of him. And **they were all amazed,** so they debated among themselves, saying,
“What is this? A new teaching **with authority!** **He commands even the unclean**
spirits, and **they obey Him.**” (Mark 1:21-27) NASB

Remember What Happened to the 7 Sons of Sceva

Then some of the itinerant **Jewish exorcists** undertook to **invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits**, saying, “**I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims.**” **Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this.** But **the evil spirit answered them,** “**Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize,** but **who are you?**” And **the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them,** so that **they fled out of that house naked and wounded.** And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And **fear fell upon them all,** and **the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled** (*magnified*). (Acts 19:13-17) ESVS

Jesus told them; Go and Proclaim my Kingdom with Power

Now He called the twelve together and **gave them power and authority over all the demons,** and **the power to heal diseases.** And **He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing.** And He said to them, “Take nothing for your journey, neither a staff, nor a bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not even have two tunics. “And whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that city. “And **as for all who do not receive you, when you leave that city, shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.**” And as they were leaving, they began going throughout the villages, **preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.** (Luke 9:1-6) NASB

Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you. **Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle,** and **to show perfect courtesy toward all people.** (Titus 2:15-3:2)
ESVS

Question; Is Today's Church (as a whole) Ready for the Return of the Lord

Study of Global Christianity (by Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary)
There are over **45,000 christian denominations** around the world. Most do not agree with each other. This is a rather shocking statement considering what the Scriptures tell us:

Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that **ye all speak the same thing**, and that **there be no divisions among you**; but that ye be **perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment**.

(1 Cor. 1:10)

Endeavouring to **keep the unity of the Spirit** in the bond of peace. There is **one body**, and **one Spirit**, even as ye are called in **one hope** of your calling; **One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all**, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. (Eph. 4:3-6)

That **they all may be one**; as thou, Father, **art in me**, and **I in thee**, that **they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me**. And the glory which thou gavest me **I have given them**; that **they may be one**, even **as we are one: I in them**, and **thou in me**, that **they may be made perfect in one**; and **that the world may know that thou hast sent me**, and **hast loved them**, as **thou hast loved me**. (John 17:21-23)

And He began to teach and say to them, “Is it not written: ‘**MY HOUSE WILL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL THE NATIONS**’? But you have **made it a DEN OF ROBBERS**.” (Mark 11:17)

Lets Look At What the Church Has Become As A Whole

Isaiah seems to know what this church looks like. In scripture Jesus likens the Jews in Judah to the Church of today. God Blessed Israel greatly and they walked away from Him, God Blessed greatly the United States of America and they too have walked away from Him. Lets look at what God says in (Isaiah 1:2-9):

Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O hearth; for **the LORD has spoken**:
“**Children have I reared and brought up**, but **they have rebelled against me**. The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master’s crib, but **Israel does not know, my people do not understand**.” Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, offspring of evildoers, children who deal corruptly! **They have forsaken the LORD, they have despised the Holy One of Israel, they are utterly estranged**. Why will you still be struck down? **Why will you continue to rebel?** **The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint**. From **the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it**, but **bruises and sores and raw wounds; they are not pressed out or bound up or softened with oil**.

(Talking about the Church) **Your country lies desolate; your cities are burned with fire**; in your very presence **foreigners devour your land; it is desolate, as overthrown by foreigners**. And the daughter of Zion is left like a booth in a vineyard, like a lodge in a cucumber field, like a besieged city. (Isaiah 1:2-9)

Question; What Church Do You Attend?

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that **I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing**; therefore **choose life**, that both thou and thy seed may live: (Deut. 30:19)

Choose you this day whom ye will serve; but **as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD**. (Josh. 24:15)