



**Fifteenth Avenue
BAPTIST CHURCH**

RETHINKING

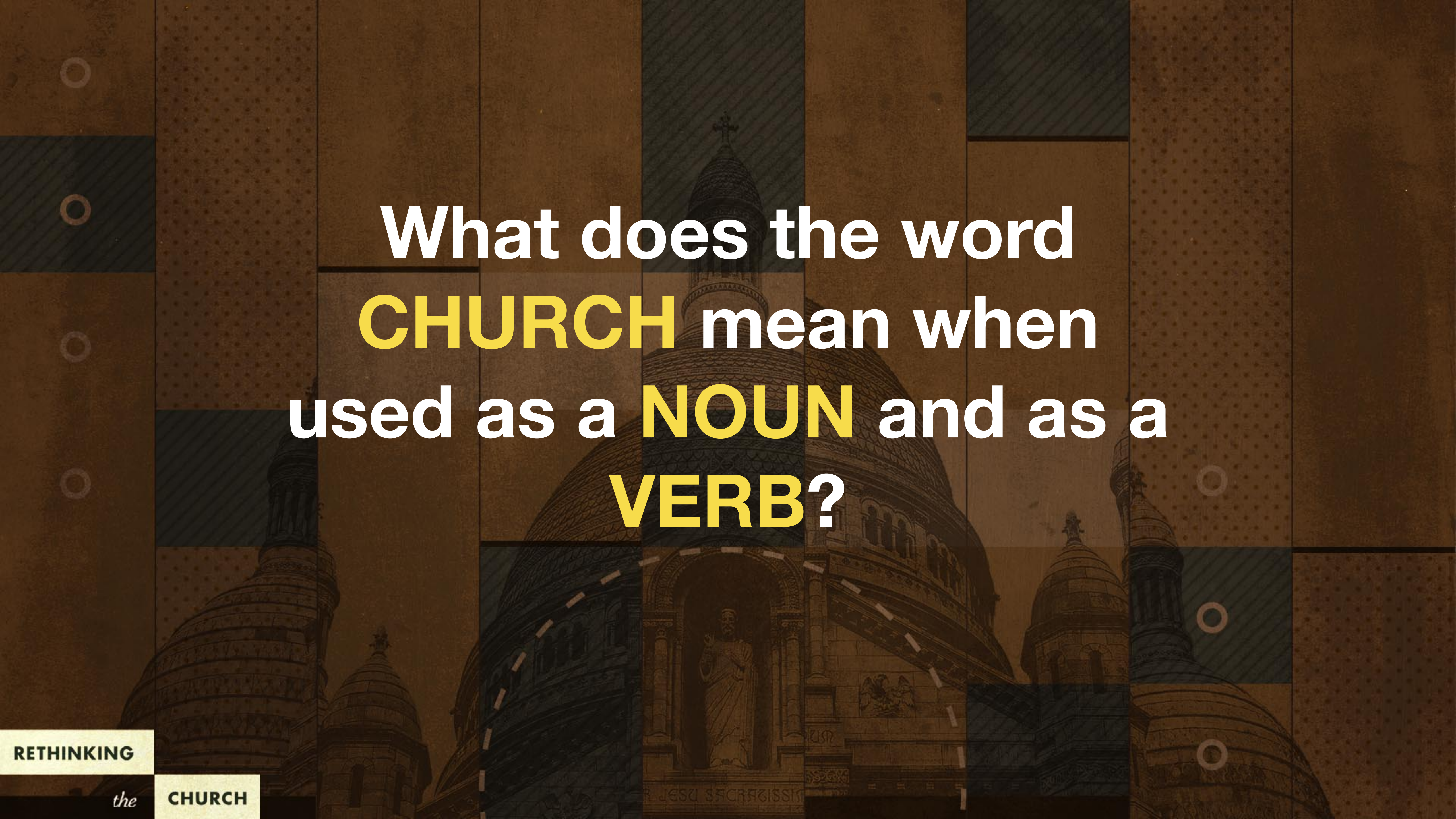
the

CHURCH



Announcements

- **Evening Bible Study will resume on June 3**
 - **Morning @ 10am**
 - **Evening @ 7pm**
- **Celebrating Honor Roll Students & 2020 Graduates**
 - **May 31st @ 10am**



What does the word
CHURCH mean when
used as a **NOUN** and as a
VERB?

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What is Church?

- Often refers to a local religious community, or
 - To religious practices and rituals
 - Both understandings still tied to a particular location.

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- Often refers to a local religious community, or
 - To religious practices and rituals
 - Both understandings still tied to a particular location.
- **What have we learned about Church and Worship during the quarantine?**
 - How does the Bible inform our understanding of church?

Understanding Church

- **Questions we should be able to answer:**
 - What is the church?
 - What is its purpose?
 - What practices are important in the church?
 - How are our practices related to the biblical record?
 - How important is church?

Understanding Church

- Biblical understanding of church
 - The book of Acts
 - Letters of Paul
 - Sayings of Jesus
 - And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my **church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. **Matt 16:18**
 - **What is this church that Jesus builds?**

Understanding Church

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 - Means assembly or congregation, but frequently did not refer to a building but rather referred to people.

Understanding Church

- **Ekklesia:** Greek word translated as **church**.
 - Means assembly or congregation, but frequently did not refer to a building but rather referred to people.
 - When referring to a people in the Book of Acts
 - Jews or Gentiles who placed their faith in Jesus Christ and received the Holy Spirit following Pentecost in Acts 2.

Understanding Church

- Bible uses several images to depict the church
 - Helping us to understand what really church is and how it functions.
 - First, church is understood as the **body of Christ**.

Body of Christ

- 25 That there should be **no schism** in the body; but that the members should have the **same care one for another**. 26 And whether one member **suffer**, all the members **suffer** with it; or one member be **honoured**, all the members **rejoice** with it. 27 Now **ye are the body** of Christ, and members in particular. **1Cor. 12:25-27**

Body of Christ

- **12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.**

Body of Christ

- 14 For the body is not one member, but many. 15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? **1Cor. 12:12 -16**

Body of Christ

- 11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the **perfecting of the saints**, for the **work of the ministry**, for the **edifying of the body of Christ: Eph. 4:11-12**

Body of Christ

- **What do these practices look like?**
 - **Perfecting of the saints**
 - **Work of the ministry**
 - **Edifying of the body of Christ**

Perfecting Saints

- **Focus on both the individual and the group**
 - **How do I get better as a believer?**
 - **How do I help my brothers and sisters get better as a believer?**

Perfecting Saints

- Focus on both the individual and the group
 - How do I get better as a believer?
 - How do I help my brothers and sisters get better as a believer?
- Another idea related to perfection is **sanctification**.
 - What does it mean for each of us to being committed to the process of sanctification?
 - Or committed to the sanctification of each other?

Work of the ministry

- What is the **Work of Ministry**?
 - What is **internal** work of ministry?
 - What is the **external** work needed now?
 - How can we best impact the community around us?

Edifying the Body

- What practices do we engage in to **edify** the body?
 - What does **edify** mean?
 - Does it only refer to encouragement?
 - What are the ways we edify one another?



Church as the **Bride of** **Christ**

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Body of Christ

- What does the language of bride bring to mind?
- What is expected of a bride or groom?
- How does one approach a day of marriage?

Body of Christ

- Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should be **arrayed in fine linen, clean and white**: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. 9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, **These are the true sayings of God. Rev. 19:7-9**

Church as the **Temple**

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Body of Christ

- 17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. 18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. 19 What? know ye not that **your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost** which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. **1Cor. 6:17-20**

Body of Christ

- 19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the **chief corner stone**; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an **holy temple** in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit. **Eph. 2:19-22**



Church as the **Royal** **Priesthood**

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Body of Christ

- 9 But ye are a **chosen generation**, a **royal priesthood**, an **holy nation**, a **peculiar people**; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: 10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. **1 Peter 2.9-10**

Church as the **Flock**

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Body of Christ

- Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the **flock**, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you **overseers**, to **feed the church of God**, which he hath purchased with his own blood. **Acts 20:28**

Body of Christ

- Sheep imagery in Old and New Testaments
 - In **Ps 23; Is 53:6** the metaphor of sheep used.
 - Jesus said he was the good shepherd and that his sheep follow his voice (**John 10**).
 - Sheep need a shepherd who will lead, feed and protect.
 - Sheep are vulnerable and need steady care.

Purpose of the Church

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Purpose of the Church

- Purpose of the church can be summarized into three broad areas:
 - Worship of God
 - Edification of the body, and
 - Evangelization of the world.

Purpose: Worship

- Humanity's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever. (Westminster Catechism)
- 23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. **John 4:23-24**

Purpose: Worship

- Questions

- How can an understanding of worship be **overly-spiritualized**?
- What are acts of worship that are not always understood as worship?
- What form can worship take outside of the church?

Purpose: Edification

- Secondly, the church as the body of Christ is to edify itself in the community of faith.
- And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. (**Acts 2:42**).

Purpose: Evangelism

- Thirdly, the church is to **evangelize** the world.
 - 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (**Matt 28:19-20**).

Purpose of the Church

- Luke also gives Jesus' instructions to the disciples just prior to his departure to heaven called the ascension.
- 8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. **Acts 1:8**

Summer Study

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THE ART OF BEING

UNORDINARY



HOW GOD CALLS US TO BREAK THE MOLD
STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ACTS

