

EKKLESIA

god in his people

THE PURPOSE AND POWER OF THE
CHURCH

HOW WORDS CHANGE THEIR MEANINGS

1 Corinthians 14:23 (NRSV) — If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and **outsiders** or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your mind?

Outsiders: (Greek) idiots...someone excluded from a group; outsider or unskilled person

Where we get our English word today “idiot”

THE WORD THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

Ekklesia Rising...Dean Bridges

“Language is the fundamental method we use for conveying information and understanding. The changing of one word can literally change the world. Therefore, translators are given an extreme responsibility in making sure they get it right, especially key words. When Jesus said, “Upon this rock I will build my ekklesia” (Mat 16:18), the translators purposely used a word identifying a building rather than the people. →

...I discovered that I had a choice; either I believed what the translators had to say or go to the original language and read what Jesus and the apostles had to say. I found no mentioning coming from Jesus that He called the translators to represent His authority. Our word "Church" is one of those words that has impacted the world and has subverted the purpose for which it was intended. Because the translators used the word "church," meaning a building, instead of a more accurate word reflecting a functioning body, it has affected our whole approach to the meaning of body of Christ. "

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MATTHEW 16:13–18 **13** NOW WHEN JESUS CAME INTO THE DISTRICT OF CAESAREA PHILIPPI, HE ASKED HIS DISCIPLES, “WHO DO PEOPLE SAY THAT THE SON OF MAN IS?” **14** AND THEY SAID, “SOME SAY JOHN THE BAPTIST, OTHERS SAY ELIJAH, AND OTHERS JEREMIAH OR ONE OF THE PROPHETS.” **15** HE SAID TO THEM, “BUT WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?” **16** SIMON PETER REPLIED, “YOU ARE THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD.” **17** AND JESUS ANSWERED HIM, “BLESSED ARE YOU, SIMON BAR-JONAH! FOR FLESH AND BLOOD HAS NOT REVEALED THIS TO YOU, BUT MY FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN. **18** AND I TELL YOU, YOU ARE PETER, AND ON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH, AND THE GATES OF HELL SHALL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT.

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EKKLESIA IS NOT CHURCH

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CHURCH /CHƏRCH/ I. NOUN 1. A BUILDING USED FOR PUBLIC CHRISTIAN WORSHIP • THEY CAME TO CHURCH WITH ME. 2.— A PARTICULAR CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATION, TYPICALLY ONE WITH ITS OWN CLERGY, BUILDINGS, AND DISTINCTIVE DOCTRINES • THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND. 3. THE HIERARCHY OF CLERGY OF A CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATION, ESPECIALLY THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OR THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND. 4. INSTITUTIONALIZED RELIGION AS A POLITICAL OR SOCIAL FORCE • THE SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE. ORIGIN OLD ENGLISH CIR(I)CE, CYR(I)CE, RELATED TO DUTCH KERK AND GERMAN KIRCHE, BASED ON MEDIEVAL GREEK KURIKON, FROM GREEK KURIAKON (DŌMA) 'LORD'S (HOUSE),' FROM KURIOS 'MASTER OR LORD.' .
THE NEW OXFORD AMERICAN DICTIONARY

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OSKAR SEYFFERT'S DICTIONARY OF CLASSICAL ANTIQUITIES,

EKKLESIA WAS ORIGINALLY USED TO DESCRIBE “THE ASSEMBLY OF THE PEOPLE, WHICH IN GREEK CITIES HAD THE POWER OF FINAL DECISION IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS.” IT WAS THE PRINCIPAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ATHENIAN GOVERNMENT, WHICH EVENTUALLY BECAME THE MODEL OF GOVERNMENT FOR CITY-STATES THROUGHOUT THE HELLENIZED WORLD. *PEOPLE ARE SUMMONSED TO ACT IN A LEGISLATIVE MANNER*

EKKLESIA

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SEYFFERT SAYS, “IN LEGAL CO-OPERATION WITH THE SENATE, THE EKKLESIA HAD THE FINAL DECISION IN ALL MATTERS AFFECTING THE SUPREME INTERESTS OF THE STATE, AS WAR, PEACE, ALLIANCES, TREATIES, THE REGULATION OF ARMY AND NAVY, FINANCES, LOANS, TRIBUTES, DUTIES, PROHIBITION OF EXPORTS OR IMPORTS, THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW RELIGIOUS RITES AND FESTIVALS, THE AWARDING OF HONORS AND REWARDS, AND THE CONFERRING OF CITIZENSHIP”

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WILLIAM BARCLAY: “IN A CERTAIN SENSE THE WORD ‘CONGREGATION/CHURCH’ LOSES A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF THE ESSENTIAL MEANING” BECAUSE EKKLESIA IS CLEARLY, *‘SUMMONED TOGETHER FOR A PURPOSE, RATHER THAN MERELY ASSEMBLING BECAUSE THEY HAVE CHOSEN TO COME TOGETHER.’* ...IT MEANS GOD’S PEOPLE ARE CALLED TOGETHER TO LISTEN TO AND ACT FOR GOD”

BRIGGS, DEAN. EKKLESIA RISING:

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IN SUMMARY, THE EKKLESIA WAS BY DEFINITION A **GOVERNMENTAL ASSEMBLY**. THEREFORE, THE AUTHORITY AND FUNCTION OF THE ASSEMBLY IS **FUNDAMENTAL TO PROPERLY UNDERSTANDING WHAT JESUS INAUGURATED IN MATTHEW 16: 18**. ...THE THOUGHT OF WILLFULLY CONTINUING TO PLAY CHURCH RATHER THAN “SHOULDERING OUR RESPONSIBILITIES” AS DULY SUMMONED REPRESENTATIVES OF GOD’S RULING COUNCIL MUST BECOME ABHORRENT TO US. LET US REPENT, AND COOPERATE WITH GOD IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF HIS KINGDOM ON PLANET EARTH.

BRIGGS, DEAN. EKKLESIA RISING.

THE EKKLESIA IS CALLED TO TRANSFORM THESE KEY
COMPONENTS OF SOCIETY TO BECOME MORE LIKE
THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

- Religion
- Family
- Education
- Government
- Business
- Arts and Entertainment
- Media

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EKKLESIA IS AN ASSEMBLY THAT ACTS WITH SENATORIAL (LEGISLATIVE) SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY ACROSS A REGION.

- PROPHETIC WORDS TO IMPACT:
 - CALLED TO TRANSFORM THE REGION; CHANGE CITY
 - APOSTOLIC HUB
 - SIGNS, WONDERS, MIRACLE
 - HOUSE OF RESURRECTION POWER
 - HOUSE OF FAVOR



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