

God has given us a **pattern through the Scriptures** concerning the Church that Christ established while on the earth, as well as the **authority** the Church was founded upon, of which the Holy Ghost bears record. The Lord God has done this so we might know and recognize with **a surety** His authority, His Gospel, His Church, and His voice.

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

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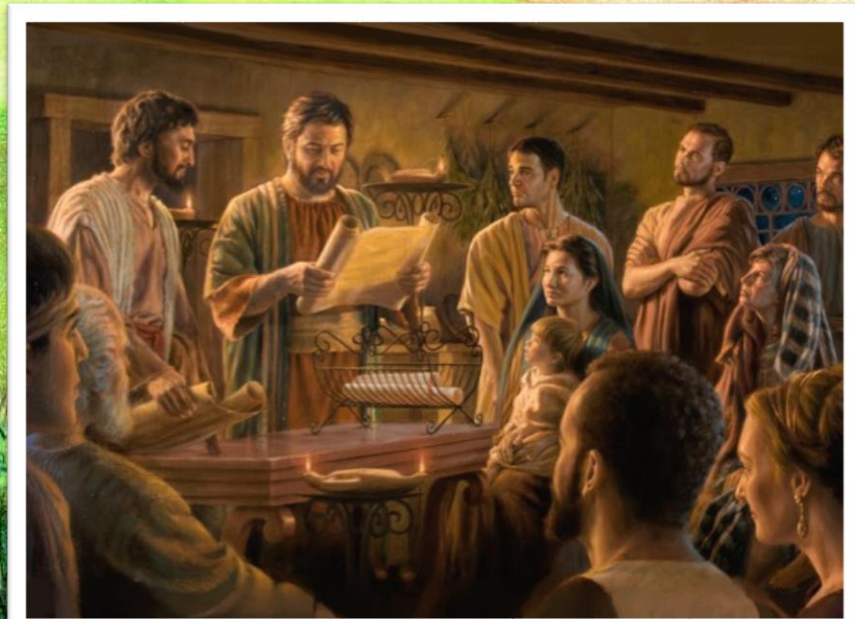
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The Great Plan of Redemption

THE CHURCH AND AUTHORITY



Paul wrote to the saints at Ephesus commanding them to be **one people** who were **united** in faith, in doctrine, and in hope

“4:3 Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4:4 There is **one body**, and **one** Spirit, even as ye are called in **one** hope of your calling; 4:5 **One** Lord, **one** faith, **one** baptism, 4:6 **One** God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”
[Ephesians 4:3-6]

Contrast this Scripture with Christianity today, for there are more than 40,000 different denominations in the world, and yet there is **one God** and **one head of the Church**, or body, which is Christ Jesus our Lord. [Ephesians 1:22-23 and Ephesians 4:15].

With so many people striving to follow the Lord, ***how can we know which path is true?*** For surely there are many doctrines and churches.



The **Church** is not a building, but a spiritual entity, governed by the Gospel [Mat 16:13-18, Eph 1:19-23, Eph 4:1-16, 1 Cor 12:27-31, Mat 6:33]

For Christ's Church to be on the earth it must have **Authority** from God with the Spirit as its witness [Acts 1:4-5, 8, Heb 5:4-5, John 15:16, Acts 8:18-21, 1 Ths 1:5, 1 Cor 12:4-12]



God warned not to add to nor take away from His Holy Word, but He never said He would stop **Speaking** [Deut 4:1-2, 12:32, Rev 22:18-19, Mat 4:4, Mal 3:6]