



Characteristics of the Church

- Basis: Abrahamic Covenant (Gal 3:8-9) and the death of the Messiah (Gal 3:13-14, Eph. 2:13)
- Nature
 - Mystery in the previous ages (Eph. 3:4-6)
 - International (Gal 3:27-28)
 - “In Messiah” immersed and indwelt by the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:9-11, Acts. 1:4-5, 1 Cor. 12:13)

- United with Christ (Eph 2:4-8)

- Heirs in Christ (Eph. 2:11-13, Gal 3:29, Rom 8:14-23)

Jesus fulfilled the Mosaic Covenant and has therefore the right to all the blessings. Since believers are in Jesus, we have been given the right to share in the spiritual blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant (Gal 3:26-29)

- Purpose in creation of the Church
 - Provide witnesses to the Messiah (Mat. 28:18-20)
 - To save from Gentiles a people for God (Acts 15:14) and to make Israel jealous (Rom 11:11-14, 30-32).
 - To reveal the wisdom of God in the sacrifice of Jesus (Eph 3:8-11)

Church in the New Covenant Age:

- Citizens of a Kingdom in Exile (Luke 19:11-17, Acts 14:22)
- We are liberated from Satan’s Kingdom (Col. 1:12-13, Eph. 2:1-2)
- We are loyal to the Messiah’s Kingdom Law (Phil. 3:17-20, Col 2:6-7)
- We worship and serve our King (1 Jn. 3:8, Heb. 2:5-9, Rom 6:11-14)
- We are also freed from the Mosaic Law (Gal 3:23-25, Rom 7:4-6, 1. Cor 9:20-21)
- We are heirs to the kingdom blessings (Gal 3:29, 1. Cor 15:50, Rom 8:16-18)

Future Kingdom confirmed (Rev 20)

- Future details are added about the state of the kingdom: Satan is bound, the length is 1000 years, believers will reign with Christ.

Discussion Questions

- Does the identity of the church change/have any significance for its purpose?
- Pair up with a partner and explain to him the main covenants and the kingdom as it is progressively revealed in Scripture. Switch roles afterwards.
- What is the one thing that you will take away from this course?