

Church as Our Fundamental Identity



TOMATOES



What is wrong with this slide?

Introduction



- **Meaning of “*ekklesia*”**
- **Four aspects of faith**
- **Church seen through these lens**
- **Inadequacy of “church” as a translation for *ekklesia***
- **Sense derived from OT & marketplace**

“church” in

Matthew’s gospel



- **Matthew 16:18**--*And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*

“church” in Matthew’s gospel



- **Matthew 18:17**--*If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.*

Movements and history?

- **Richard Foster's Living Streams**
- **Money, Sex and power defined its human expression**
- **Fear, intimidation, abuse of power (It shall not be so among you)**
- **Martyrs, Servants, Disciples, etc.**

Expansive View of its Nature



- Images of the church in the New Testament (96!)
- Fluid and organic in nature
- Specific and local in nature
- Universal reference
- Assembled people of God in the name of Jesus

Christian living & Ministry

- **1 Corinthians 4:17**-- my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church.
- **Acts 12:5**-- So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.
- **Acts 11:19-30**—The Church in Antioch

Conclusion



- **God's way of building relationships**
- **Human beings redeemed**
- **Transformation of self for others!**
- **Connected to Jesus**
- **Reconciled to each other**
- **Bible, systematic faith, history, ministry=lens**