

## ***What Is The Church?***

1. Not the RCC which says the church is the visible church on earth
2. Not a One World Church or the Liberal Protestant View
3. Not a neo-evangelical ecumenical church which is the Orthodox Protestant's view
4. Not believers of all ages which is the Reformed Church's view
5. Not just the universal church
6. Not just the local church

### **How the RCC Developed**

1. Clement: Died in AD 98. Believed in Universal and Local church
2. Ignastius: Martyred in AD 115  
"Let the laity be subject to the deacons; the deacons to the presbyters; the presbyters to the bishops; the bishop to Christ"
3. Irenaeus: Died 202. "The succession of the bishops" based on 2 Tim 2:2
4. Cyprian: Died 258
  - Church founded upon Peter
  - Peter was the Bishop of the Catholic Church at Rome
  - Catholic means the universal visible church at this time
5. Augustine: Died 430.
  - No salvation outside the Church
  - No local church. All part of the visible, universal Catholic Church
6. Bishop Leo of Rome in 452 more powerful than the emperor
7. Gregory the Great in 590: The first Pope of the RCC

### **Three Usages of the word "CHURCH"**

(ekklesia) which means to assemble

1. Civil or Secular Usage (Acts 19:32, 39, 41)
2. Jewish Usage (Acts 7:38)
3. Christian Usage
  - a. Universal Church: Christ's Body made of all believers since Pentecost on earth or Heaven (Heb. 12:23)
  - b. Local Church: A local church can be in one house (Philemon 2)

### **Local Church Contrasted with the Universal Church**

<b><i>Local Church</i></b>	<b><i>Universal Church</i></b>
1. Membership: saved and lost	1. Membership: saved only
2. Only currently living people	2. Both dead and living
3. Many local churches	3. Only one universal church
4. Differing denominations	4. No single denomination
5. Part of the body of Christ	5. The entire body of Christ
6. Differing types of government	6. Christ the only head