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**THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH**

1. **THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH:** Identifying the distinctives of the church as confirmed by the Lord Jesus Christ can be seen \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_1 or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2, that is what the New Testament church is or is not, consider.

**The church from a negative view:**

1. **It is not a new name for Israel:** Covenant theology teaches the church has become God’s elect people-chosen as Israel once was-Replacement theology. But this is not the case.
	1. **The promises are distinctly different:** Israel had promises and provisions that were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_3 (Ex. 5:26; Deut. 28) people, place, possessions, purpose. The promises concerning the church are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_4 (Eph. 1:3; Col. 3:1-3)
	2. **The seed is different:** Abrahams \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_5 is his son and his descendants Israel (Rom. 9:7) Abrahams \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_6 refers to the church (Gal. 3:7).
* Israel received her marching orders at \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_7 (Ex. 19-20).
* Church received her marching orders at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_8 (Acts 2).
* The author of Hebrews shows the contrast between the two (Heb. 12:18-24, the Israelites by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_9, the Christian believer by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_10.

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* 1. **The nationality is different:** Israel in the world, of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_11, yet the church is comprised of all people (believers) as citizens of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_12, here as strangers and pilgrims (I Pt. 2:11), spiritual-external-invisible/visible-material-temporal (II Cor. 9:18).
	2. **The relationship with the Father is different:** God is never presented as Father to the individual Israelite in the Old Testament, but in the New Testament God is presented as the Father of all believers (Rom 8:15; I Jn. 3:1). Israel is currently under judgment (Rom 10:21, 11:8) while the church is free from all present judgment (Col. 2:13-15). Israel was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_13 (Is. 41:8). The church-every believer is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_14 (Jn. 1:12; I Jn. 3:1).
	3. **The relationship with the Son is different:** Israel is seen as an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_15 (Is. 54:1‑17; Jer. 3:1, 14, 20; Ez. 16:1-59; Hosea 2:1-23). The church is seen as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_16 and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_17 married in Heaven (II Cor. 11:2; Rev. 19:7‑9). Christ was a stumbling stone to Israel (I Cor. 1:23; I Pt. 2:8) yet Christ is the foundation and chief cornerstone of the church (Eph. 2:20-22; I Pt. 2:4-5). Christ is Israel’s Messiah and King (Jn. 1:49) but Christ is the churches Saviour, Bridegroom and Head (Eph. 5:23).

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* 1. **The relationship with the Holy Spirit is different:** The Holy Spirit only \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_18 on limited occasions in Israel – Old Testament, yet the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_19 in every believer who forms the body of the N.T church (I Cor. 6:19).
	2. **The Temple is different:** Israel had a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_20 (Ex. 25:8) and the church is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_21 (Eph. 2:21). These distinctives help us determine the differences that defined the two separate entities and establish a correct understanding even as Paul provided insights (I Cor. 10:32).

**Ten distinctives that define what THE CHURCH IS NOT,** from scripture.

1. **The Church is not the Kingdom/**the church is a work in progress, “being built” in the present day (Eph. 4:12). The kingdom is future and comes as such (Acts 15:16; Rev. 11:15).
2. **The Church is not a physical structure/**brick and mortar, it is Spiritual, and therefore eternal.
3. **The Church is not a political, national or governmental organization.**

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1. **The Church is not Denominational,** distinctively divided into unique formats of belief and practice, that marks the destination of the true church or no true church.
2. **The Church is not what Roman Catholicism declares namely** (the mystical body of Christ or the Church on earth). These are not two different entities, but rather two distinct aspects of the true church. Roman Catholic authority rests in the body of mystical belief/church authority – headship – salvation, edicts and ordinances…
3. **The Church is not what Liberal Theologians declare it to be,** often influenced by the social gospel teaching the organized fully functioning operative of ministry is non-essential.
4. **The Church is not what NEO-LIBERAL’S declare** in response to the Liberal belief. This institution (Koinonia) is a suggested spiritual fellowship, a form of existentialism. The church is simply a subjective state of being, not really part of God’s plan.

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1. **The Church is not what NEO-ORTHODOXY teaches,** the church concept is spiritual, and therefore universal, not an entity but an activity or event, it is not fixed it is fluid. Thus, a continually evolving energy or environment.
2. **The Church is not what NEO-EVANGELICALS teach,** that the church must be able to conform to the culture if it is to be relevant, not as an example, but an environment of inclusion not exclusion. There are no absolutes, not authority and no accountability, the end justifies the means. “The church is to confirm its conduct and character by genuine Biblical conversion and convictions adherent to Biblical doctrine, as the pillar and ground of truth.”