

Marks of A Healthy Church



IX

9Marks

1. Expository Preaching
2. Gospel Doctrine
3. Conversion and Evangelism
4. Church Membership
5. Church Discipline

IX

9Marks

6. Discipleship

7. Church Leadership

8. Prayer

9. Missions

IX

9Marks

“Ministry founded on God’s word, done in God’s way, in the power of the Holy Spirit with prayer is what Christ will use to build His church.”

“Second, local churches grow in life and vitality as they organize their lives around God’s Word. God speaks. Churches should listen and follow. It’s that simple.”

Michael Lawrence,
Conversion: How God Creates a People.

“When a church listens and follows, it begins to look like the One it is following. It reflects his love and holiness. It displays his glory. A church will look like him as it listens to him.”

Michael Lawrence,
Conversion: How God Creates a People.

I. Church Defined

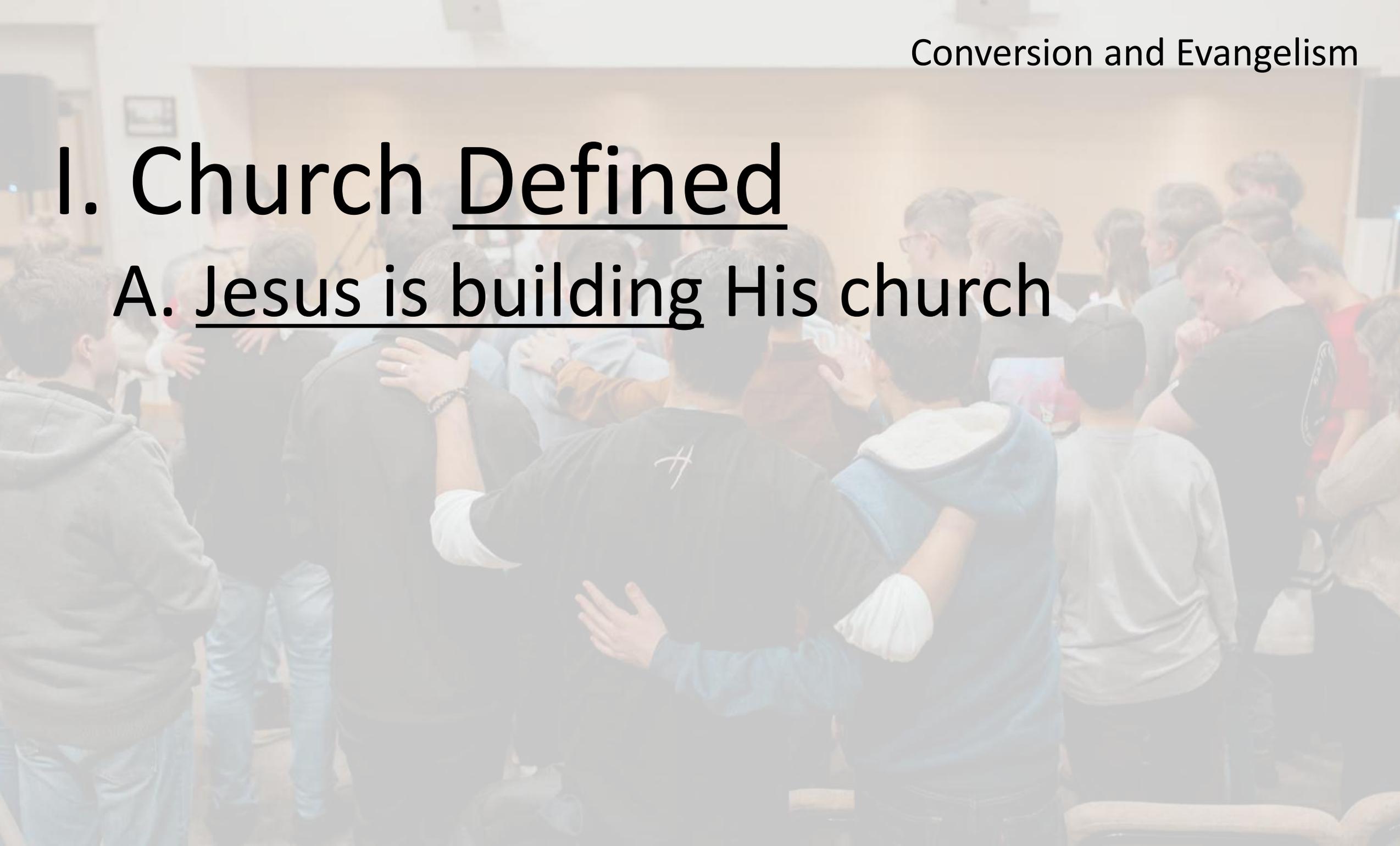


“A local New Testament church is a body of believers immersed upon credible confession of faith in Jesus Christ, having two officers (pastor and deacons), sovereign in polity, and banded together for work, worship, the observance of the ordinances and the worldwide proclamation of the gospel.”

Paul R. Jackson, The Doctrine and Administration of the Church

I. Church Defined

A. Jesus is building His church



Matthew 16:18

¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

I. Church Defined

A. Jesus is building His church

B. The Holy Spirit places us in the church

1 Corinthians 12:13

¹³For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

Matthew 16:15–18

¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Matthew 16:15–18

¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 16:15–18

¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Matthew 16:15b,16, 18

“But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶

Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Matthew 16:15b,16, 18

¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

I. Church Defined

A. Jesus is building His church

B. The Holy Spirit places us in the church

C. The Father reveals the truth about

Jesus to us

Matthew 16:17

¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

Acts 16:13–15

¹³ And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together.

Acts 16:13–15

¹⁴ One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.

Acts 16:13–15

¹⁵ And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us.

“It’s not a mere change of mind or feeling. Christian conversion is a rescue. It’s a rescue from death to life, from wrath to forgiveness, from enslavement to freedom. And it’s God’s rescue. Only he can do it.”

Michael Lawrence,
Conversion: How God Creates a People.

“Expository preaching is a style of sermon where the main point of the passage is the main point of the sermon. It aims to explain what the Bible says rather than using the Bible to support what the preacher wants to say.”

The Supremacy of Expository Preaching

1. It allows God to speak rather than man
2. It brings the preacher in direct contact with the Holy Spirit
3. It forces the preacher to proclaim all of God's revelation
4. It promotes biblical literacy in a congregation

The Supremacy of Expository Preaching

5. It carries ultimate authority because the Word of God itself is preached

6. It transforms the preacher and the congregation

7. It is God's Word, and only God's Word, that we are called to proclaim

I. Church Defined

II. Conversion

A. Conversion understood



“Conversion is the radical change of heart and life which God brings about in his people by his Spirit.”

Healthy Churches: A Beginner's Guide.

Genesis 1:31

³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Genesis 1:15-17

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden,

Genesis 1:15-17

¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Genesis 3:1–13

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?”

Genesis 3:1–13

² And the woman said to the serpent,
“We may eat of the fruit of the trees in
the garden, ³ but God said, ‘You shall
not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in
the midst of the garden, neither shall
you touch it, lest you die.’ ”

Genesis 3:1–13

⁴ But the serpent said to the woman,
“You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows
that when you eat of it your eyes will be
opened, and you will be like God,
knowing good and evil.””

Genesis 3:1–13

⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

Genesis 3:1–13

⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

Genesis 3:1–13

⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Genesis 3:1–13

⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”

¹⁰ And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.”

Genesis 3:1–13

¹¹ He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”

Genesis 3:1–13

¹² The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.”

Genesis 3:1–13

¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

Genesis 3:23-24

²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken.

Genesis 3:23-24

²⁴ He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

Romans 3:9-11

⁹ What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, ¹⁰ as it is written:

Romans 3:9-11

“None is righteous, no, not one;
¹¹ no one understands;
no one seeks for God.

“Created with a nature to love God, we now have a nature that is bent on loving self. From birth, Paul says, we are dead in our sins, and walk in the passions of our flesh (Ephesians 2:1-3). We're like dead men walking. This is why nice doesn't work. We must be made new.”

Michael Lawrence

“It is not that we tried hard, but fell short. Or meant well, but got sidetracked. It’s that our sinful nature desires to please the flesh rather than God.”

Michael Lawrence

Psalm 19:7 (NKJV)

⁷The law of the LORD is perfect,
converting the soul;

John 3:1-8

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.

²This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.”

John 3:1-8

³ Jesus answered him,
“Truly, truly, I say to you,
unless one is born again
he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

John 3:1-8

⁴ Nicodemus said to him,
“How can a man be born when he is old?
Can he enter a second time into his
mother’s womb and be born?”

John 3:1-8

⁵ Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit,

he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

John 3:1-8

⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you,
'You must be born again.'

John 3:1-8

⁸ The wind blows where it wishes,
and you hear its sound,
but you do not know where it comes
from or where it goes.

So it is with everyone who is born of the
Spirit.”

John 3:16-18

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16-18

17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

John 3:16-18

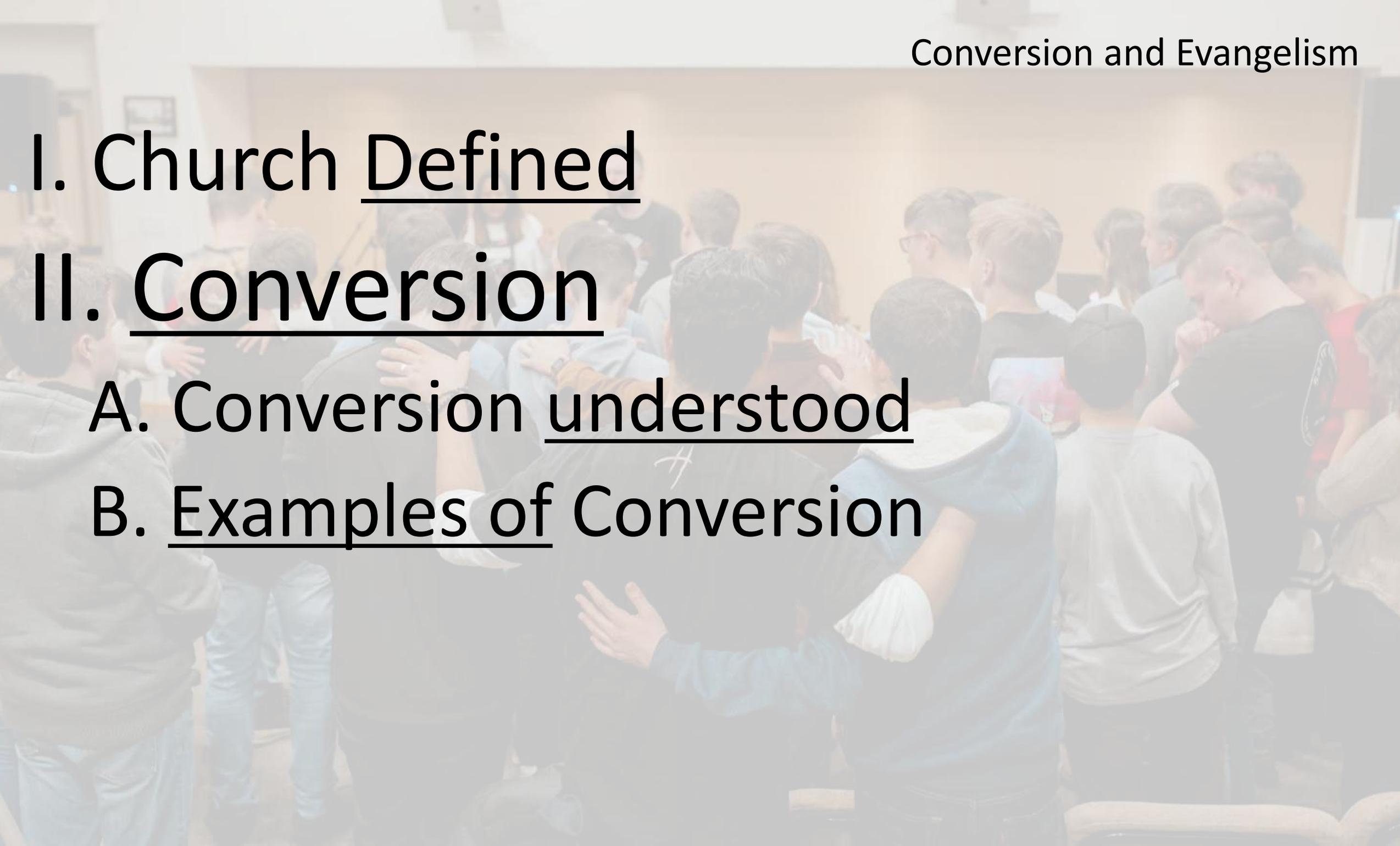
¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

I. Church Defined

II. Conversion

A. Conversion understood

B. Examples of Conversion



Acts 2:37-38, 40-41

³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

Acts 2:37-38, 40-41

³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:37-38, 40-41

⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Acts 16:30-31

³⁰ Then he brought them out and said,
“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” ³¹
And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus,
and you will be saved, you and your
household.”

Acts 6:7

⁷ And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Hebrews 11:6

⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

I. Church Defined

II. Conversion

A. Conversion understood

B. Examples of Conversion

C. Impact of Conversion

Colossians 1:13-14

¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

1 Thessalonians 1:8-9

⁸ For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything.

1 Thessalonians 1:8-9

⁹ For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,

2 Corinthians 5:17-18

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;

Conversion. Total change in one's direction in life or moral orientation. For Christians this means a change from an orientation that does not take God into account to one in which the person is submitted to Christ.

Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible

In the OT conversion is basically a turning or returning from one's former course of life toward the Lord, the God of Israel. Israel often had to return to their God (Dt 4:30), either as individuals (Ps 51) or as a nation (Jer 4:1);

Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible

The characteristic feature is that one turns from wickedness (Ez 18:21, 27; 33:9, 11; Jer 26:3; 36:3), from a life of disloyalty to God to a life of obedience to God (Jer 34:15; Is 10:20, 21; 44:2; Hos 14:4). Conversion means a change in inward orientation which finds expression in a changed life style.

Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible

Conversion is radical but also simple, for it requires the simplicity of a child who commits his whole self, not the calculating self-protectiveness of the adult (Mt 18:3).

Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible

Acts 15:3

³ So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers.

Revelation 1:5

⁵ and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood