

A long, straight road with yellow double lines stretching into the distance, with footprints and a paw print on the asphalt.

W h a t i s t h e c h u r c h ?

“This is the best church!”

Romans 16:3–5 Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks but all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks as well. Greet also the church in their house.

What we say . . . says something



"A collective noun is the name of a group or class considered as a unit; e.g., flock, class, group, crowd, gang."

Examples:

- **One link is not a chain**
- **One cow is not a herd**
- **One Christian is not a church!**
- **1 Corinthians 12:12,14; Matthew 18:15-20**

A C o l l e c t i v e N o u n



"n. Grammar. A noun that denotes a collection of persons or things regarded as a **unit."**

Units:

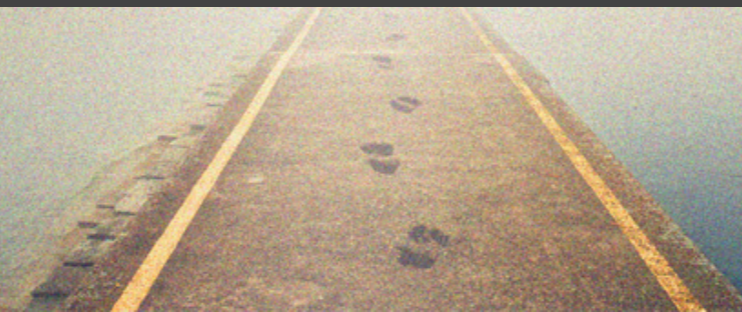
- **Israelites - Acts 7:38** (KJV, "church"; NASB, "congregation"—see footnote) Moses wasn't a part of the Lord's body. It's how the term was used.
- **Rioters - Acts 19:32** ("assembly"—see NASB footnote) Didn't know why they were called out - just assembled
- **Greek citizens - Acts 19:39** ("assembly"—see NASB footnote) Purposely assembled.
- **Christians - Acts 2:47** (what we're considering this morning)

E x a m p l e s o f E k k l e s i a



The Church - **Universal Sense**

1. **UNITS** - Christians
2. **COMMON CHARACTERISTIC** - being in Christ
3. The whole body of Christians, or, the collectivity comprising all those called out of the world by the gospel into the fellowship of Christ - **Matthew 16:18; Hebrews 12:23**
4. By Various Figures Likened Unto:
 - **Body** - 1 Corinthians 12:12-14
 - **Temple** - Ephesians 2:20-22
 - **Priesthood** - 1 Peter 2:5
5. To be a member of this "church" is to sustain a relationship to the Godhead wherein all spiritual blessings are found! Ephesians 1-3.



The Church - **District Sense**

1. **UNITS** - Christians
2. **COMMON CHARACTERISTIC** - living in the same area or district
3. The body of Christians living in a defined area or district - **Acts 9:31**

The Church - **Assembled Sense**

1. **UNITS** - Christians
2. **COMMON CHARACTERISTIC** - physical assembly of the local church
3. A physical assembly of the local church - **1 Corinthians 11:18,20; 14:19, 23-25**



The Church - **Local Sense**

1. **UNITS** - Christians

2. **COMMON CHARACTERISTIC** - a specific fellowship, i.e. worshiping and working together in a given locality

3. A body or group of Christians worshiping and working together in a given locality - **1 Corinthians 1:2,10; 11:20; 14:26; 16:1-2; Philippians 1:1; 4:15; 1:27**

- Not simply assembly (children, unbelievers, meetings, special classes)
- Not simply geography (not all members live in the locality of the designated church)

4. **Characteristics of this fellowship**

- Regular assembly for worship and edification (though not by itself sufficient to identify the fellowship)
- Common oversight under which they operate
- Common fund through which they work



A r e w e s t r i v i n g ?