



Part Twelve in the series: *"Towards a Christocentric Ecclesiology, or A Christ Centered Church"*

## Church Comparisons

### A Comparison of the modern IC Church with the Church of the New Testament

This chart has been prepared to attempt to compare some aspects of today's Church with the Church as seen functioning in the New Testament. We trust it will challenge all of us to seek God afresh for His will to be done in "His" Church today.

Issues	Today's Church	The Church of the New Testament
1. Where do we find God's plan for His Church?	Church growth seminars	The New Testament
2. What is "The Church?"	A building	The people of God
3. Where is Jesus	In heaven	On earth, at work through His Body
4. What is the Church known by?	Their name, pastor, doctrine, programs, size	Their love - Jn. 13:35
5. Taught to	Go to Church	Be the Church
6. Commitment	Enlarge the institution	Know Christ and Enlarge His Kingdom
7. Key task	Come, grow our Church	Go, make disciples
8. Expectations of members	Attendance, tithing, work in the programs	Total commitment and stewardship to Jesus
9. How many Churches in any city?	Many	One

10. Who starts Churches?	Pastors	Apostles
11. Worship	Is a time and place, largely connected to music and singing	Is primarily a sacrificial life-style, minor emphasis on music and singing
12. When is the Church to gather?	Sunday and mid-week	Anytime
13. Why does the Church gather?	Have a service	To experience fellowship with Christ and the saints
14. Where does the Church gather?	Church building	Their homes, anywhere
15. Size of groups	Large, impersonal	Small, intimate
16. Focus of gathering	The Pastor	Jesus
17. Who is to minister when the Church gathers?	The Pastor	Jesus and anyone led by the Spirit to do so
18. Support system	Problem? See the Pastor	Building up one another
19. Relationships	Surface	Intimate, in life together
20. Discipling	Classroom	Being together, mentors
21. Oversight of the Church	The Pastor	A group called Elders
22. Primary task of leadership	Direct the programs	Equip, release, and care by oversight, the people God towards ministry
23. Leadership style	Centralization	Decentralization
24. Source for securing workers	Bible School, Seminary	God raises them up from within
25. Who is to disciple the children?	Sunday school teachers and youth workers	Their parents
26. Where is evangelism to take place?	The Church building and organized crusades	Everywhere, in every setting of relational life

27. Church growth	Requires bigger buildings	Spontaneous multiplication
28. Publicity	Madison Avenue techniques	Signs, wonders, and changed lives
29. How do we give?	Tithes and Offerings taken	In secret, as led by the Spirit
30. How much are you to give	10% plus offerings	100%
31. Where does the money go?	Buildings, staffs, materials and programs	Needs of people, both needy and ministries
32. How are decisions to be made?	Voting, majority rules, or a strong central personality	In body unity with the Spirit
33. Legal status	Given authority (501C3) to exist by the state as a corporation	No connection with the government at all.