The Word “Church”  
Eph. 1:22-23

Introduction:
A. The word “church” has many meanings in today’s society.
   1. Used abstractly — “The church, the state, the home.”
   2. Used denominationally — “Church of Christ”, Methodist church, etc.
   3. Used materially — a building.
B. The word “church” needs to be studied for its biblical meaning.
   2. Ekklesia — a called out assembly — assemblies of various kinds. (cf. Acts 19:32, 39, 41)
   3. Suppose never heard of church and begin reading Bible - would soon learn that church used in different ways.

Discussion:
   A. Not saved, then join church — saved are church.
   B. Not saved, then added later. (Acts 2:36-38,47).
II. Local Groups Called “Churches”. (Rom. 16:16; 1 Cor. 1:2; 16:1; Rev. 1:7).
   A. Groups with organizational structure.
      2. Recognizable bounds of membership. (1 Cor. 14:23).
         a. One can be member at one place while at another (Rom. 16:1).
         b. Not merely a loose and vague boundary as some teach.
         a. Paul was later in church at Antioch. (Acts 13:1).
         b. No record of “membership at large”.
      4. One could be put out of it. (3 John 9)
   B. Groups were not tied to larger organization. (Acts 14:26; 20:17; Tit. 1:5).
   C. Groups were tied together by common authority, faith and practice. (1 Cor. 4:17; 7:17; 16:1; Col. 4:16).
      1. Had same pattern of worship: L.S., singing, prayer, teaching, giving.
      2. Had same pattern of work: Evangelism (Phil. 4; 2 Cor. 11:8); Relief (1 Cor. 16:1,2); Edification (Eph. 4)
III. Local group called “church” when assembled together. (1 Cor. 11:20,21; 1 Cor. 14:34,35).
   A. One is “in church” even “at home” when viewed in first two senses.
   B. One has duty to be a part of assembled church. (Heb. 10:25).
   C. One can say that he goes to church in this sense of the word.

Conclusion:
A. Called “Church of Christ”, “church of God”, etc. in each sense.
B. One needs to be in the church in each sense.
   1. That is to say, he is to be one of God's saved.
   2. That is to say, he is to become a part of the local organization.
   3. That is to say, he is to assemble when the church meets.
C. Why not become one of God’s saved, a member of His church, then become a part of a faithful local church, then be in church when it is assembled.