

# House Church

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Acts 2:46-47 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

## Definition of the Word "Church"

The Greek word translated "church" in the New Testament is *ekklesia* 1577 "an assembly, a (religious) congregation" *Abbott-Smith Lexicon*. A church is not a building or a place where Christians meet; it's an assembly or congregation of believers.

It's crucial to remember there is no evidence: biblical, historical or archaeological of Christians having special buildings for worship during the first century. "Not until the first half of the third century did the Christians build houses of worship."<sup>3</sup> The truth is that is all they had.

## New Testament House Churches

In this study we examined the scriptural evidence showing that during the New Testament period, Christians assembled in private homes for worship, fellowship and instruction. There are at least twenty-five references to house churches in the New Testament. Clearly a common, if not the normal practice of the New Testament Church of God, a practice that a growing number of Christians are returning to.



### Caesarea House Church

The house of Philip the evangelist (Acts 21:7-12)

### Colossae House Church

The house of Philemon (Philemon 1-2)

### Corinth House Churches

The house of Titius Justus (Acts 18:7)

The house of Chloe (1 Corinthians 1:11)

The house of Stephanas (1 Corinthians 16:15)

The house of Gaius (Romans 16:22-23)

### Crete House Churches

Anonymous houses (Titus 1:10-11)

### Ephesus House Churches

The house of Aquila and Priscilla (1 Corinthians 16:19)

Anonymous houses (Acts 20:17-21)

### John's House Churches

Anonymous houses (2 John 12)

The house of Gaius (3 John)

The house of Diotrephes (3 John 9)

### Jerusalem House Churches

Anonymous houses (Acts 2:46-47)

Anonymous houses (Acts 5:42)

Anonymous houses (Acts 8:3)

The house of Mary (Acts 12:12)

### Laodicea House Church

The house of Nympha (Colossians 4:15)

### Rome House Churches

The house of Aquila and Priscilla (Romans 16:3-5)

The house of Aristobulus (Romans 16:10)

The house of Narcissus (Romans 16:11)

The house of Asyncritus (Romans 16:14)

The house of Philologus and Julia (Romans 16:15)

The house of Paul (Acts 28:16, 23, 29-31)

### Thessalonica House Church

The house of Jason (Acts 17:1-9)

### Troas House Church

The house with an upper room (Acts 20:7-12)

### Jesus

He made disciples *without special buildings*, and He told His disciples to make disciples. *They would have not seen any need for special buildings*. It is just that simple. When Jesus told His disciples to go into all the world and make disciples, His disciples did not think to themselves, "What Jesus wants us to do is to build buildings and give sermons to people there once a week."

### Avoid Extremes:

1. False doctrine of Home Church Movement:
  - Attacks authority of local church similar to Korah attacking Moses
  - Hyper spiritual about their home group system while putting down the rest of the body of Christ
  - Preaches against organization of local churches.
  - Attack the use of buildings as a regular means of meeting as a church body.
2. Don't preach home churches as only way
3. Don't focus on building – and think a home church is stepping back or inferior

### Q) Should a group of believers meet in a home or a building?

**Answer:** Whatever meets the needs of the group. There is no hard & fast method and doctrine for where we should meet as a church body.

**The overriding principle is that we individually are members of Christ's body. Individually and corporately are the church, not a home or a building.**

### Benefits of being a part of a home group:

1. Fellowship - Connect to the rest of the body
2. Study the word in an intimate atmosphere
3. Makes Disciples (Paul's example in Ephesus)
4. It takes ministry out of the four walls to where people live
5. It is a practical application of the truth that the church is not a building but His people

### Biggest sin in the Body of Christ:

Forsaking the assembling of the saints for

**Work \* Family \* Recreation**

Hebrews 10:25 not **forsaking** the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner (habit) of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

