

The church of God is a term used by many people to describe a specific congregation at a specific time. It is more than that. The "ecclesia", the "called out ones", have been loved by God throughout the Ages. Since the time of Christ, when the commissioning of the Christian church took place, the primary purpose of the church has been to [spread the gospel to the world](#). The church at every level may be involved in worldly things such as feeding the poor and helping people in distress. We can all have our views on politics and social issues. We can be passionate about these views. But, we need to remember the central purpose of the church is to spread the gospel to bring about the return of Jesus! We will be held accountable for our time. Being concerned about world peace is wonderful but the next time there is peace on earth will be AFTER Jesus comes.

## Matthew 10:16-18

Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

17 But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils,

Matthew 10:16-18

## Matthew 10:16-18 (cont)

and they will scourge you in  
their synagogues;

18 And ye shall be brought  
before governors and kings for  
my sake, for a testimony  
against them and the Gentiles.

NOTICE the text does not say beware of evil men. It says beware of ALL MEN. Everyone is subject to failures in judgment. I don't fault people for not having good intentions. There is a saying that the road to hell is paved with good intentions. People, ALL people, make mistakes in judgment.

## 1 Thess 5:17-23

17 Pray without ceasing.

18 In every thing give thanks:  
for this is the will of God in Christ  
Jesus concerning you.

19 Quench not the Spirit.

20 Despise not prophesyings.

Prophesying means public speaking, or sermons.

## 1 Thess 5:17-23 (Cont)

21 Prove all things; hold fast  
that which is good.

22 Abstain from all appearance  
of evil.

Throughout the history of the church there has been a problem with a wolf in sheep's clothing coming into the flock of God and spreading false doctrine. We need to prove all things and not rely on anyone's word for things.

## Exodus 20:4-6

4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them:

The Lord wants us to honor Him not by substituting idols and manmade things that would come between us and the Lord. God has always demanded obedience. Our generation has automatically associated obedience with a dictatorial God and legalism. This has also been done in the past, but our permissive generation has taken this idea to new levels. For example, tradition from the medieval church has it that portions of the cross of Jesus remained at Jerusalem for hundreds of years and that Helena, who was Constantine's mother, went there in 326 AD and found the actual cross of Jesus. She performed miracles with that cross despite the fact that Jewish law required crosses to be burned after a crucifixion.

## Exodus 20:4-6 (Cont)

for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

6And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Exodus 20:4-6. This shows the love of God and the hate of God. The love of God for the sinner and the hatred of God for the sin.

## 2 Kings 18:1-4

“Did that which was right...he brake the images and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brazen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it.”

2 Kings 18:1-4 Remember in Numbers 21, Moses made a serpent on a pole and if anyone was bitten, if they looked at the serpent they lived? Well, after that incident the Israelites kept the brass serpent around and made an idol out of it. So, Hezekiah QUOTE ABOVE

Why did he destroy it? Because it had served its Godly purpose and now it was being perverted by the people.

Superstition set in and people thought the cross itself had magic powers. It could ward away evil spirits. It was worn around the neck. It was kept in homes to keep disease away. It was put on top of churches to keep lightning away, and yet it actually attracted it. Obviously, those traditions and superstitions ARE STILL AROUND TODAY.

## 2 Samuel 6:6-7

And when they came to Nachon's threshingfloor, Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it.

7 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God.

2 Samuel 6:6-7 There have always been people who tried to help the Lord out in ways He did not ordain. This simple act of Uzzah should be a lesson to us. It was well known that noone was to touch the ark like that. But, Uzzah was just trying to help you say. Well, human logic does not always apply to God's will!

## 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ,

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (Cont)  
and hath given to us the ministry  
of reconciliation;

19 To wit, that God was in  
Christ, reconciling the world unto  
himself, not imputing their  
trespasses unto them; and hath  
committed unto us the word of  
reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 continued

## 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (Cont)

20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

Ambassadors DON'T MAKE THEIR OWN LAWS or amend the laws of the country that sent them. They don't start traditions of their own. They represent faithfully the government that sent them. King Jesus sends us out into the world with a message. Now it is the 3 Angels Messages of Revelation 14.

## 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (Cont)

21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21. Jesus made a supreme sacrifice. He was treated as we deserve that we may be treated as He deserves.

## 1 Timothy 4:1

Now the spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

Some within the church shall depart from the faith. A seducing doctrine is one that gets right next to you. It is very appealing.

## 2 Thess 2:1-4 & 7,8

1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

Paul said it is time to rethink your commitment.

## 2 Thess 2:1-4 & 7,8

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God,

Man of sin. The apostasy comes to us on a human level. The falling away is associated with the MAN OF SIN.

## 2 Thess 2:1-4 & 7,8

or that is worshipped; so that he  
as God sitteth in the temple of  
God, shewing himself that he is  
God.

5 Remember ye not, that, when I  
was yet with you,

This gives the meaning of a man trying to take the place of God.

## 2 Thess 2:1-4 & 7,8

I told you these things?

6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

2 Thess 2:1-4 & 7,8 Mystery of iniquity does already work. The spirit of apostasy was in the infant church. The main church quite keeping the Sabbath long before Constantine made an official law keeping Sunday. In 321 AD. And even that Sunday law was a contradiction. Townspeople were required to rest on the “venerable day of the sun” but permitted countrymen to continue their agricultural work.

## 2 Thess 2:1-4 & 7,8

8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

BRIGHTNESS OF HIS COMING MOVE TO NEXT SLIDE

## Brightness of His Coming



## 1 John 4: 1-3

1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that

1 John 4: 1-3 Prove all things.

## 1 John 4: 1-3

confesseth that Jesus Christ is  
come in the flesh is of God:

3 And every spirit that  
confesseth not that Jesus  
Christ is come in the flesh is  
not of God:

1 John 4:1-3 continued. There are so called Protestants who don't believe that Jesus is the actual Son of God and is fully God Himself.

## 1 John 4: 1-3

and this is that spirit of  
**antichrist**, whereof ye have  
heard that it should come; and  
even now already is it in the  
world.

1 John 4:1-3 spirit of antichrist

## What does 'antichrist' mean?

- Apostle John is only person who uses word in entire Bible.
- 1 John 2:18, 1 John 2:22, 1 John 4:3, and 2 John 1:7

What does "antichrist" mean? John is the only Bible writer who uses the term.

[http://www.blueletterbible.org/tmp\\_dir/words/a/1157862001-5728.html](http://www.blueletterbible.org/tmp_dir/words/a/1157862001-5728.html)

## Antichrist

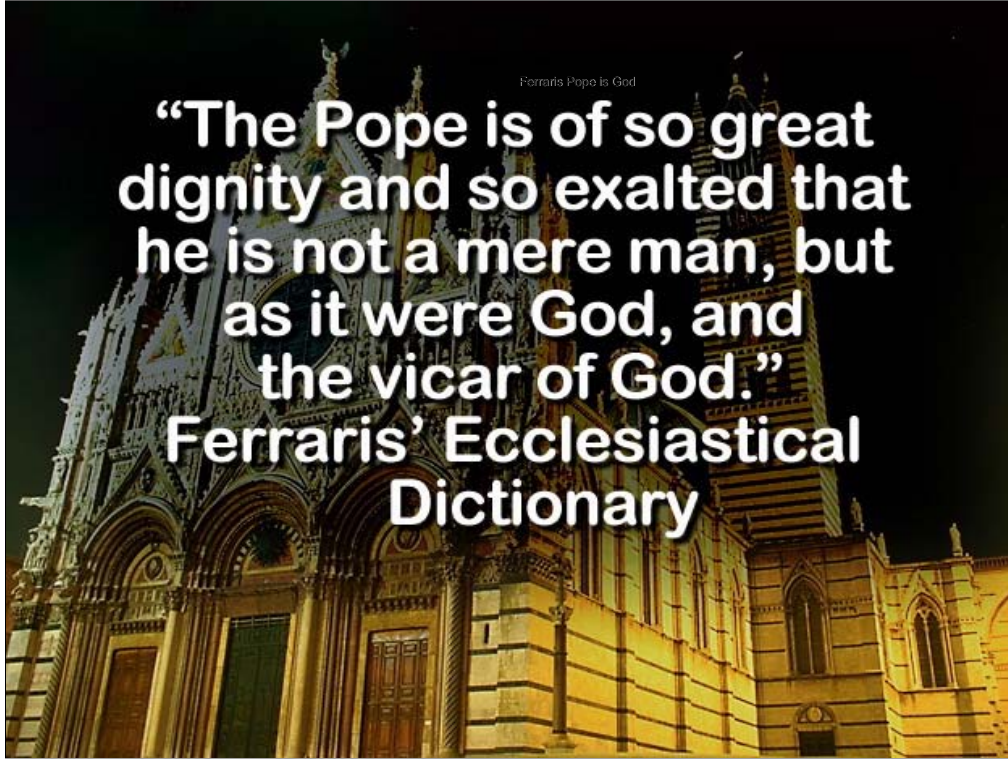
The English word Antichrist is taken from the Greek αντίχριστος *antíkhristos* (modern Greek pronunciation *andichristos*), which literally means "instead of Christ".

Very important to see that the real meaning is IN THE PLACE OF CHRIST.

## 1 Timothy 2:5-6

- For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;
- 6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

The word here for ransom literally means substitutionary ransom, not just ransom. It implies the just for the unjust.



Ferraris Pope is God

**“The Pope is of so great  
dignity and so exalted that  
he is not a mere man, but  
as it were God, and  
the vicar of God.”  
Ferraris’ Ecclesiastical  
Dictionary**

## Who is Antichrist?

- Pope claims to be God on earth.
- In absolution, priest forgives sin every Sunday



Priest claims to forgive sin.

Rev 13:3 “All the world wondered  
after the beast”.



This is a very important issue for us to understand. US presidents have been very positive toward recent popes.

## Daniel Puts Human Features on Antichrist

- 2:43 Seed of men
- 7:8 eyes of a man and mouth speaking great things
- 7:20 mouth that spake very great things



In reference to Daniel 2:43, Word of God likened to seed in Matt 13, Mark 4, and Luke 8. So, this is impure doctrine.

Daniel 7:8 The little horn power has eyes of a man. The medieval church with its human institutions and human authority began when men did what was right in their own eyes.

Daniel 7:20-21 The words spoken by antichrist are the doctrines and commandments of men. NEXT SLIDE

## Mark 7:7

“Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”

Nothing worse than vain worship. If you don't have a Scriptural reason for doing something you are simply not on safe ground.

## Galatians 2:11-17

But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed.

12 For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision.

There are many lessons here. First we have Paul, the younger, chewing out Peter, the patriarch of the church. Why? He withdrew and separated himself from the Gentiles when a group of Jews came. Next, he did it in public in front of witnesses. Third, it was written down for all of us to see. This is important. Peter had shortcomings, but he was still an effective worker for the Lord. He was NOT a god on earth.

## Galatians 2:11-17

13 And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation.

14 But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a

Paul actually chewed out the whole group.

## Galatians 2:11-17

Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?

15 We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles,

## Galatians 2:11-17

16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law:

Man is not right with God by works of the law.

## Galatians 2:11-17

for by the works of the law  
shall no flesh be justified.

17But if, while we seek to be  
justified by Christ, we  
ourselves also are found  
sinners, is therefore Christ the  
minister of sin? God forbid.

We need to act out what we say we believe. There are 3 major lessons we can get from this little story.

1. Great ministers make great mistakes.
2. Keeping the truth in the church is more important than keeping the peace.
3. No doctrine is more important than the doctrine of justification by faith without the deeds of the law.

## Hebrews 10:19-27

Hebrews 10: 19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh

## Hebrews 10:19-27

21 And having an high priest  
over the house of God; 22  
Let us draw near with a true  
heart in full assurance of faith,  
having our hearts sprinkled  
from an evil conscience, and  
our bodies washed with pure  
water.

## Hebrews 10:19-27

23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

## Hebrews 10:19-27

25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

26 For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

## Hebrews 10:19-27

27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.