

1. The church is created by God, for the glory of God—it's not a human invention.

“For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.” - Deuteronomy 7:6, ESV

2. The church is being built by Christ, and is therefore indestructible.

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God .” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ...” -

Matthew 16:16-18 NIV

“The story of the Church is a story of many  
resurrections.” - John Calvin

3. The church is a temple in which God lives by his Holy Spirit.

“ . . . In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.” - Ephesians 2:12-22, ESV

4. Each local church is an embassy of the one holy, catholic (universal, worldwide), apostolic church.

“... to the church of God in Corinth.” - 1 Corinthians 1:2

“The church functions like an embassy of this new society that God is creating through Christ. Just as the US embassy in London is considered a part of US sovereign territory overseas in a foreign land, so the local church is a small part of heavenly territory in this world.” - Sam Allberry

“... I am writing you these instructions so that, if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.” - 1 Timothy 3:14-15, NIV

“Lacking a church is not equivalent to lacking a decent supermarket or movie theatre; it is like lacking a hospital or a source of water. It is an utter necessity.” - Sam Allberry



## 5. The Church is the Bride of Jesus.

“Husbands, love your wives, **as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her**, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.” -  
Ephesians 5:25-27, ESV

A temptation to resist.

“What does it say about us if the church is good enough for the Father to adopt, for the Spirit to inhabit, and for Jesus to marry ... but not good enough for us to join?” - Scott Sauls

“The church is not perfect, but woe to the man who finds pleasure in pointing out her imperfections! Christ loved his church, and let us do the same.

“I have no doubt that the Lord can see more fault in his church than I can; and I have equal confidence that he sees no fault at all. Because he covers her faults with his own love—that love which covers a multitude of sins; and he removes all her defilement with that precious blood which washes away all the transgressions of his people.” - Charles Spurgeon

An invitation to  
receive.