

The Doctrine of the Church

The Church is the body of Christ—and the bride of Christ. These are powerful metaphors for understanding who we are, as a body of Christ-followers. Yet they offer just a glimpse of who we are and who we should be in this world. What exactly is the Church? Who is the Church? What part does Blue Ridge Bible Church play within the whole? All these are important questions for us to wrestle with and to understand as well as we can. We must be able to carry out the mission God has given us in the world as well as care for the Church of God in the world and in Purcellville. Let's take a look at this most important doctrine of the church.

THE CHURCH: Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church universal and this local body. The church universal is the body of true believers throughout the earth. No single human organization comprises the church universal. This is a local church and is not subject to any higher human authority, but we remain the willing bondslaves and servants of Jesus Christ. A local church is to be governed by elders and deacons, and both groups are to be directly accountable to the body of believers as they are also accountable to Jesus Christ.

ORDINANCES: We believe that the church is to observe two ordinances: believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper. There is no redemptive power in either of these ordinances but we observe baptism and communion as signs of identification with and obedience to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We believe in baptism by immersion after a person has experienced personal saving faith in Jesus Christ.

Your definition of the Church: _____

Other Resources:

[The Church](#) by Edmund Clowny

[The Church: The Gospel Made Visible](#) by Mark Dever

[The Master's Plan for the Church](#) by John MacArthur