

## What Is A Church?

If you were raised in a typical American church, you would likely define church as a group of Christians with their own building, a paid pastor, and meeting for Sunday School and large group worship on Sunday morning.

However, if you were from the communist country of China, you might define a church as a small group of Christians who meet secretly, in someone's home, for Bible study and prayer. Christians in this country meet secretly because most Christian churches meet without the government's permission or approval.

What is a church? At the most elementary level a church is two or three people gathered in the name of Jesus. It requires no pastor, no organization, no programs, no building, no tax-exempt status, or many of the extras we are familiar with.

Whenever we gather in the name of Jesus, whether it be for worship, Bible study, a meal, an outreach project, etc., we are the church. Church is more about why we are gathered than where we gather or how we organize ourselves.

I say all this at this time of the year to remind you that Jesus is more interested in what we do in His name, than what we look like. He is focused on us **Changing Lives** with Him.

Right now the Nominating Committee is doing its work of connecting Christ's followers at Emmanuel Baptist Church with positions of leadership and service for the coming year. If Jesus returns this next year He isn't going to ask you if you are an official member of a tax exempt organization called a church. He is going to ask if you are doing the work of **Changing Lives** with Him. So I urge you to prayerfully fill out the survey form from the Nominating Committee, and also consider serving where asked for the coming year. It is all about Changing Lives with Christ, as "each does his or her part." (Ephesians 4:16)

-- pastor Robin