

## 1 **What Is the Church?**

- A denomination?
- A national organization?
- A local organization?
- A building?
- A meeting?

## 2 **ἐκκλησία**

- Ekklesia
  - An assembly, a public gathering of citizens
  - From words meaning “summoned” or “called out”

## 3 **Acts 19:29–32**

### **Find the Ekklesia**

And the whole city was filled with confusion: and having caught Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul’s companions in travel, they rushed with one accord into the theatre. And when Paul would have entered in unto the people, the disciples suffered him not. And certain of the chief of Asia, which were his friends, sent unto him, desiring him that he would not adventure himself into the theatre. Some therefore cried one thing, and some another: for the assembly was confused; and the more part knew not wherefore they were come together.

## 4

- Matt. 16:18 “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”
- Matt. 18:17 “And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.”

## 5 **The Biblical Definition**

- The church is the community of believers.
  - Local
  - Universal
- Denominations, organizations, and even buildings and meetings are included in the study of church history.