



the **History** and **Work** of the **Church**

The Spiritual Nature of the Church

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- *“Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.” (John 18:36)*
- **Soap, Soup, and Salvation**
 - Today’s motto for many churches
 - Many view the church as a physical institution with a little religion thrown in to make us feel good about God
- **The Church is ...**
 - God’s spiritual heritage – Eph 1:11-18
 - the fulfillment of the promise to Abraham – Acts 3:25-26

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- **Truth: The Conquering Power of His Kingdom**
 - “... for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”” (John 18:37)
 - The Truth would make one free – John 8:32
 - Jesus said, “**I am the truth**” – John 14:6
 - The Word of God is truth – John 17:17

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- **Only Those in the Church Receive Spiritual Blessings**
 - All spiritual blessings are **in Christ** – Eph 1:3
 - Those in Christ are in the body (church) of Christ
 - *“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” (Galatians 3:26–27)*
 - *“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body— whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 12:13)*
 - If all spiritual blessings are in the church, then those outside the church do not enjoy spiritual blessings

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- **The Character of the Church is Spiritual**
 - We are born again by a spiritual birth – John 3:1-7
 - We walk after the Spirit – Gal 5:16
 - We engage in spiritual worship – John 4:23-24
 - We serve in the newness of the spirit – Rom 12:1-2
 - We engage in spiritual warfare – Eph 6:10-18 – with spiritual weaponry – 2 Cor 10:4

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- **Those in the Church Receive Spiritual Reward**
 - Our inheritance is incorruptible
 - *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” (1 Peter 1:3–5)*
 - We will receive a spiritual body – 1 Cor 15:52-53