

DID THE CHURCH BEGIN AT PENTECOST?

A. The nature of the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit

1. Matthew 3:11; John 1:33-34 – John the Baptist prophesied that the one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit would be – multiple choice:
 - a. God the Father
 - b. Jesus Christ
 - c. The Holy Spirit Himself
 - d. The apostles
2. Acts 1:4-5 – After His resurrection and before His ascension Jesus stated that this baptizing work – multiple choice:
 - a. had already occurred during his earth ministry
 - b. would occur that very day
 - c. would occur in a few days in the future
 - d. would occur in the future at His second coming
3. Acts 2:1-4, 32-33 – The only major outpouring of the Holy Spirit occurred – multiple choice:
 - a. on the day of Pentecost
 - b. on the Passover
 - c. on the Day of first fruits
 - d. on the feast of tabernacles.
4. Acts 11:15-17 – This beginning point in which the Holy Spirit came on the believers is said to be – multiple choice:
 - a. His filling
 - b. His baptism
 - c. His sealing
 - d. His indwelling
5. 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:22-23 – The church as the body of Christ is formed by the _____ work of the Holy Spirit.

Note: The baptizing work of the Holy Spirit did not occur prior to Pentecost. Even though Jesus' disciples were saved, they were not baptized by the Holy Spirit until the day of Pentecost.

B. Ephesians 1:20-23

Please put these events in their correct order by numbering them:

- _____ Jesus Christ became the head of the church.
- _____ God placed all things under Jesus' authority
- _____ Christ was raised from the dead
- _____ Christ was seated at God's right hand in heaven

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Note: If the church as the body of Christ existed during Christ's earthly ministry, then it was a headless body because this passage states that He did not become the head until after His resurrection and ascension.

C. Ephesians 2:11-16

1. Ephesians 2:11-12 – Before Christ died on the cross, the Gentiles were not part of the nation of _____.
2. 2:13 – The Gentiles were brought near to God through the _____ of Christ.
3. 2:14-16 – Christ made the two groups of Jew and Gentile into _____ new group through His work on the _____.
4. 2:14-16 - According to this passage this oneness of Jew and Gentile in one body could not exist until Jesus – multiple choice:
 - a. was born
 - b. was baptized
 - c. was crucified
 - d. comes again

Note: If this oneness could not happen without Christ's death on the cross, then the church obviously did not begin during the time of Jesus' earthly ministry prior to that event as taught by some.

D. Ephesians 2:19-22

1. cp. Ephesians 3:4-6 – Since the mystery is now being revealed at the time Paul is writing the prophets mentioned in Ephesians 2:20 refer to – multiple choice:
 - a. Old Testament prophets
 - b. New Testament prophets
 - c. neither a nor b
2. Who were the Apostles?
 - a. Matthew 10:2-4 cp. Acts 1:25, 26: _____

 - b. Acts 14:14 _____
 - c. Galatians 1:19 _____ the Lord's _____

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3. Ephesians 4:7-11 – When were these men who comprise the foundation of the church given to the church as spiritual gifts? – multiple choice:
- a. during Christ’s earthly ministry
 - b. during the time after Christ’s resurrection and before His ascension
 - c. after Christ ascended
4. Ephesians 2:19-22 - The church is compared to a building whose foundation is not in place until after Christ ascended. This shows that we believers who are continually being added to the church did not begin being added until – multiple choice:
- a. Christ’s earthly ministry
 - b. the time after Christ’s resurrection and before His ascension
 - c. after Christ ascended

E. Ephesians 4:7-11

1. 4:11 – What spiritual gifts were given? _____, _____, _____, and _____ and _____.
2. 4:7, 8 -These gifts were given – multiple choice:
- a. before Christ’s earthly ministry at His first coming
 - b. during Christ’s earthly ministry at His first coming
 - c. after Christ’s earthly ministry
 - d. at Christ’s second coming

Note: If the church as the body of Christ existed during Christ’s earthly ministry as some teach it would have been an ungifted body.

F. Hebrews 12:22-24

1. 12:22-24 – The church of the firstborn and the spirits of righteous/just men made perfect are – multiple choice:
- a. the same group of people
 - b. separate groups of people
 - c. angels
2. Hebrews 11:34-40 – In verse 40
- a. The word “us” and the words “they would be perfect” refer to the same group of people.
 - b. The word “us” and the words “they would be perfect” refer to the church (New Testament believers)
 - c. The word “us” and the words “they would be perfect” refer to Old Testament believers.
 - d. The word “us” refer to New Testament believers (the church) and the words “they would be perfect” refer to Old Testament believers.

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Note: Since the church is formed by the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit according to 1 Corinthians 12:13 and since the Old Testament believers and New Testament or church believers are separate groups, this passage supports but does not prove a Pentecost beginning of the church.

G. John 3:29-30

1. cp. 2 Corinthians 11:2 and Ephesians 5:25-32 - The term “bride” refers to – multiple choice:
 - a. the church
 - b. Christ
 - c. John the Baptist
 - d. the nation of Israel
2. John 3:29-30 – The term bridegroom refers to – multiple choice:
 - a. the church
 - b. Christ
 - c. John the Baptist
 - d. the nation of Israel
3. John 3:29-30 – The phrase “friend of the bridegroom” refers to – multiple choice:
 - a. the church
 - b. Christ
 - c. John the Baptist
 - d. the nation of Israel
4. John 3:29-30 – This shows that – multiple choice:
 - a. John the Baptist and by inference Old Testament believers are part of the body and bride of Christ.
 - b. John the Baptist and by inference Old Testament believers are not part of the body and bride of Christ.
 - c. The bride of Christ and the nation of Israel from its beginning are part of the body and bride of Christ.

H. John 10:16

1. Matthew 10:6; 15:24 – Although Jesus did reach out to Gentiles during His earthly ministry, His primary focus was the nation of _____.
2. The “other sheep” refer to the Gentiles. Their hearing his voice/word was said to be – multiple choice:
 - a. past
 - b. present
 - c. future

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3. 10:16 - The lost Jews and lost Gentiles who are saved being one flock or one group with one shepherd was – multiple choice:

- a. past
- b. present
- c. future

Note: In order for this one group of both Jew and Gentile to come about, this had to be future to Christ's earthly ministry.

I. John 11:51-52

1. Jew and Gentiles were to be gathered into one group – multiple choice:

- a. as a result of Christ's birth
- b. as a result of Christ's miracles during His earthly ministry
- c. as a result of Christ's death
- d. as a result of Christ's second coming

Note: Christ had to die before there could be a Pentecost for the Holy Spirit to baptize the believers into one body. This makes it clear that the church was not yet the one body of Gentile and Jew because Christ's death had not yet occurred.

J. Matthew 16:18

1. During His earthly ministry, Jesus stated that He – multiple choice:

- a. already built His church in the past
- b. was building His church at the present time
- c. will build His church in the future
- d. all the above

Note: This certainly suggests that the church was not present during Christ's earthly ministry.

K. Question about Matthew 18:15-17

1. The church is spoken of by Jesus as – multiple choice:

- a. a present reality
- b. a future reality

2. This reference is obviously to – multiple choice:

- a. the universal or true church consisting of all believers
- b. the local church

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Note: The local church was obviously in existence during Christ's earthly ministry. However, the true church, the body of Christ consisting of Jews and Gentiles, did not come into being until Pentecost as supported by the first ten points of this study. Keep in view the fact that local churches do have unbelievers in them (eg. Judas John 6:64, 70-71) while the true church, the body of Christ, has only true believers baptized by the Holy Spirit into that one body (1 Corinthians 12:13).