

## Formal and Informal Incorrect Views of the Church

### 1. Landmarkism

From GotQuestions.org:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/landmarkism-Baptist-bride.html>

*Landmark theology, or heritage theology, is the belief among some independent Baptist churches that only local, independent Baptist congregations can truly be called “churches” in the New Testament sense. They believe that all other groups, and even most other Baptists, are not true churches because they deviate from the essentials of landmarkism.*

*Those essentials are 1) church succession—a landmark Baptist church traces its “lineage” back to the time of the New Testament, usually to Jesus’ calling of the disciples in Galilee; 2) a visible church—the only church is a local (Baptist) body of believers; there is no such thing as a universal Body of Christ; 3) opposition to “pedobaptism” (sprinkling of infants) and “alien immersion” (any baptism not performed under the auspices of a landmark Baptist church)—all such baptisms are null and void.*

### 2. Roman Catholicism

From Wikipedia.org ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catholic\\_theology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catholic_theology))

*The Catholic Church teaches that it is the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church founded by Jesus. Concerning non-Catholics, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, drawing on the document Lumen gentium from Vatican II, explains the statement “Outside the Church there is no salvation.”*

From InfoPlease.com:

<https://www.infoplease.com/encyclopedia/religion/christian/branches/roman-catholic-church/beliefs-doctrines-and-practices>

*To belong to the church one must accept as factually true the gospel of Jesus as handed down in tradition and as interpreted by the bishops in union with the pope. Fundamental in this divine tradition is the Bible, its text determined and disseminated by the church. Adherents must also accept the church as possessing the fullness of revelation, and the church, according to the Roman Catholic catechism, is the only Christian body that is one, holy, catholic [universal], and apostolic.*

*The doctrine of apostolic succession is one of the keystones of the Catholic faith; it holds that the pope (the vicar of Christ) and the bishops have in varying degrees the spiritual authority Jesus assigned to his apostles. The voice of the pope, either alone or in conjunction with his bishops in council, is regarded as infallible when speaking on matters of faith and morals taught in common with the bishops (see infallibility).*

### 3. Wrong Informal Views:

#### a. Church as “\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_” (Context of Multiple Passages)

Matt. 18:17-20 <sup>17</sup> “And if he refuses to hear them, tell *it* to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup> “Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup> “Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup> “For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.” (cp. Num 35:30; Deut 17:6-7; 19:5; Mt 26:60; 2 Cor 12:20—13:3; 1 Tim 5:19-20; Heb 10:28)

#### b. Church at \_\_\_\_\_ (Nature & Meaning of ekklesia)

##### • **One can assemble an assembly in one’s home:**

Rom 16:3-5 <sup>3</sup> Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus ... <sup>5</sup> Likewise greet the church that is in their house ...

1 Cor 16:19 The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.

Col 4:15 Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that *is* in his house.

Phmn 1:1-2 <sup>1</sup> Paul ... <sup>2</sup> to the beloved Apphia ...and to the church in your house:

- **One cannot “do church” by oneself and/or with one’s family.**
- **“Church” is not simply an activity that can be done anywhere with anyone (or no one). The assembly cannot be done alone.**
- **The assembly requires the active assembling of believers.**

#### c. Church as a \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor 11:17-34)

- **An assembly requires a location to meet but is not a location.**
- **We do not “go” to church as a location, but we go to meet with the assembly at a given location. How we talk matters!**
- **Better, name a building a “meeting hall,” etc. Words matter!**

#### d. Church as a Club or \_\_\_\_\_ Center (1 Cor 12:12-27)

- **Choosing and attending based on programs offered.**
- **Centering on personal benefit rather than mutual service.**
- **Selectively participating per one’s desires (consumerism).**
- **The nature of the assembly is a body-obligation.**
- **We commit to an assembly because we are part of the Assembly.**

#### e. Church Attendance as the \_\_\_\_\_ of Gathering (Heb 10:24-25)

- **“Checking the Box”**
- **“Baptist Mass”**
- **Listen and Leave**