

Acts 17:17 -- "So he was reasoning in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and in the market place every day with those who happened to be present."

James 2:2 -- "For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes,"

Revelation 2:9 -- "I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan."

I. "church" (EKKLESIA -- ἐκκλησία)

This term is used 115 times in the New Testament. In the A.V. It is translated "church" 112 times, and "assembly" 3 times. In the LXX It is used 100 times, and translates QAHAL 60 times, and the derivatives of QAHAL 40 times. Selected references show that the uses of EKKLESIA in the New Testament divide into two classes, based on distinct meanings:

- a. Class #1 -- the whole Body of believers, an Organism made up of true believers

Matthew 16:18 -- "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it."

Romans 12:5 -- "so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another."

Ephesians 1:22-23 -- "And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."

Ephesians 5:25-30 -- "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless. So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body."

Colossians 1:18 -- "He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything."

Hebrews 12:22-23 -- "But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and the church of the first-born who are enrolled in