

"In John 14:20, an additional fact is mentioned . . . which is of great significance in view of the subsequent unfolding of the doctrine of the body of Christ . . . the statement, 'ye in me', affirms a new position to be given the church, the body of Christ, far more intimate and blessed in its relationship than anything ever offered to the nation Israel in the Old Testament . . . Instead of being related to God as Israel was by covenant relationship and by being members of a chosen physical race, the church was to have a spiritual unity with Christ in which they would be identified with Christ, the Head of the church, would be members of His body, and would constitute together an organism with a living union rather than an association based essentially either on race or covenant. . . The important fact was their personal union with Jesus Christ and to all fellow believers." (pages 39-40)

"Taken as a whole, the high-priestly prayer of Christ in John 17 is a panoramic view of God's divine purpose in this present age, and is in sharp distinction to His purpose for Israel in many respects, since it is a revelation of God's divine purpose for the church composed of both Jews and Gentiles." (page 41)

2. A nondispensational view of the relationship

What is the Church?

In its broadest sense the Church may be defined as follows:

- the people of God of all ages, from Adam to the last person who will be savingly united to Christ and the benefits of His redemption;
- all those saved by grace through faith on the ground of Christ's atoning work;
- all those whom God has foreknow, predestinated, called, justified, and sanctified;
- all those who have been born of God, who have become members of God's redemptive family, who are indwelt by the Spirit of God;
- the whole body of professing believers in God's salvation, manifested in local gatherings with their officers and ministers, and carrying out the functions of ministry of the word, right administration of the ordinances, and proper exercise of discipline.

Is the Church an Exclusively New Testament Phenomenon?

The definitions given above apply to the saints of the Old Testament as well as those of the New Testament.

However, there are clear distinctions between the Old Testament as well as those of the New Testament body of believers. In what do these distinctions lie?