

**Handout for Lesson One**  
**The Nature and Establishment of the Church**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. In historical and theological order, God gave a *person*, a *proclamation*, and a *people*.
2. This study is concerned with the New Testament doctrine of the church.

**BODY:**

1. **Covenant.**
  - a. A covenant relationship is based on promises or sworn oaths.
  - b. Different kinds of covenants existed in ancient Israel.
  - c. God's Covenants.
  - d. The promise of a new covenant.
  - e. Covenant in the New Testament.
  - f. The old covenant is obsolete.
  - g. The fullest use in the New Testament of the theme of the new covenant is found in Hebrews.
  - h. The covenant people.
2. **Kingdom (This subject will be discussed in Lesson Two).**
3. **Messiah.**
  - a. The kingly title of Jesus was associated with his being the Messiah and his anointing was related to his role as the inaugurator of a new covenant.
  - b. The anointing of Jesus was not with the oil that consecrated priests and kings but with the Holy Spirit.
  - c. As Messiah Jesus was both Suffering Servant and Son of Man.
  - d. As Messiah Jesus called a people – "I will build my church." Matt. 16:13-23.
    - i. Matthew connects the confession of Jesus' Messiahship with Jesus promise to build a church.
    - ii. Four pertinent questions must be answered.
      1. What is the Rock?
      2. What does "the gates of Hades will not prevail" mean?
      3. What are the "keys of the kingdom of Heaven"?
      4. What does it mean to be the Messiah?

**CONCLUSION: COMMUNITY.**

1. It is significant for the understanding of the church that God's purpose was to call a people and that he dealt with individuals in relation to a people and individuals came to him as members of the chosen people.
2. Isaiah 2:2-4 and Micah 4:1-3 are important in understanding the nature of the church.
3. Prerequisites for the church (community).
4. Pentecost as the beginning.
5. People of the end time.