



'73 Twenty Ministries
BIBLE STUDIES FOR THE ENTHUSIAST

ECCLESIOLOGY

The Study of the Church

73 TWENTY MINISTRIES

A TEACHING MINISTRY OF DR. ROBERT C CROWDER

73TWENTY MINISTRIES: CHARTING THE WORD, NAVIGATING FAITH

Rooted in a lifelong passion for teaching and guiding others in Biblical truth, 73Twenty Ministries is devoted to helping believers navigate the depths of Scripture with both clarity and conviction.

The name 73Twenty holds deep personal significance: it comes from my childhood home at 7320 Greenwood Boulevard in Denver, Colorado. It was here that the foundations of my faith, study, and service were first laid. With the majestic Rocky Mountains ever-present on my horizons, God's Word has been a constant guide and presence throughout my life. The logo of 73Twenty Ministries, with its three mountain peaks in gray, blue, and orange, symbolizes not only the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but also the unwavering foundation of Biblical truth upon which our faith is built.

For more than twenty years, I've served as a pastor, teacher, mentor, and author, committed to making Biblical truths accessible and applicable. Through sermons, Bible studies, books, articles, and other teaching resources, 73Twenty Ministries exists to equip believers, strengthen churches, and proclaim the Gospel. Our mission is both simple and profound: to chart the Word, guiding faith, and helping others anchor their lives in Scripture.

At 73Twenty Ministries, we believe that faithful Biblical study should engage the mind, transform the heart, and shape daily life. Whether through exegetical teaching, character studies, theological exploration, or practical application, every resource is crafted to deepen understanding, strengthen conviction, and encourage obedience to God's Word.

As a ministry grounded in a conservative Baptist, dispensationalist approach, we focus on Biblical exposition, doctrinal clarity, and practical discipleship. We uphold the belief that Scripture is the authoritative, inerrant, and sufficient Word of God, and it's our privilege to help others navigate its timeless truths.

I invite you to explore the resources at 73TwentyMinistries.com and join us on this journey of discovery, growth, and unwavering faith. Together, let's stand on the mountain of God's truths and proclaim His name to every generation.

For His glory alone,

Dr. Robert C. Crowder, Th.D.

Founder, 73Twenty Ministries

THE CHURCH AND ITS MISSION: A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

The study of the church is known as **Ecclesiology** (from the Greek *ἐκκλησία* *ekklesia*, meaning "assembly" or "called out ones" or "church," and *-λογία* *logia*, meaning "study" or "discourse"). Ecclesiology is a branch of **theology** that examines the nature, purpose, structure, and function of the church as the body of Christ.

KEY ASPECTS OF ECCLESIOLOGY

Definition and Nature of the Church

- The church is the body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22–23), a spiritual community of believers in Jesus Christ.
- It consists of both the universal church (all believers throughout history) and the local church (specific congregations of believers).
- The church is often described using metaphors such as:
 - The Bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:25–27)
 - The Household of God (1 Timothy 3:15)
 - A Holy Temple (1 Corinthians 3:16)

The Purpose and Mission of the Church

- Worship – Glorifying God through corporate and personal devotion (John 4:24).
- Evangelism – Spreading the Gospel and making disciples (Matthew 28:19–20).
- Discipleship – Teaching and nurturing believers in their faith (Ephesians 4:11–13).
- Fellowship – Building a community of faith through unity and love (Acts 2:42).
- Service – Meeting the spiritual and physical needs of people (James 1:27).

The Structure and Government of the Church

- Different traditions have various forms of church leadership:
 - Episcopal (Bishop-led) – Authority is centralized in bishops (e.g., Catholic, Anglican, Orthodox).
 - Presbyterian (Elder-led) – Governance by a group of elders (e.g., Reformed churches).
 - Congregational (Member-led) – Authority rests with the congregation (e.g., Baptist churches).

- Offices within the church include:
 - Pastors/Elders (Shepherds of the flock – 1 Peter 5:1–3).
 - Deacons (Servants of the church – Acts 6:1–6).

The Ordinances or Sacraments of the Church

- Baptism – A public declaration of faith in Christ (Matthew 28:19).
- The Lord’s Supper (Communion) – A remembrance of Christ’s sacrifice (1 Corinthians 11:23–26).
- Some traditions also include additional sacraments such as confirmation, confession, and anointing of the sick.

The Church and the Kingdom of God

The church is a present expression of God's kingdom, but it also looks forward to Christ’s return and the full establishment of His reign (Revelation 21:1–3).

There is debate in theology regarding how the church relates to Israel, particularly in dispensational and covenant theology.

The Future of the Church

- Eschatology (End Times) – The role of the church in the last days, including its place in the Tribulation, the return of Christ, and the Millennial Kingdom.
- The Church Triumphant – The eternal state of believers with Christ in heaven (Revelation 19:7–9).

CONCLUSION

Ecclesiology is crucial for understanding the identity, mission, and function of the church in God’s redemptive plan. A biblical understanding of the church helps believers faithfully live out their calling and prepare for the return of Christ.