

Pop Quiz

- How many churches are there in the world?
(Can you hazard a “best guess” here?)



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- How many churches are there in the world?
(Can you hazard a “best guess” here?)

- **One.**

- There's only one Church—one Body of Christ—with several appendages... and a lot of confused other people...



The Apostles' Creed



The Apostles' Creed

- *Intro to the Creed Itself*
- *God the Father*
- *God the Son*
 - *Christ's Birth*
 - *Christ's Crucifixion and Death*
 - *Christ's Death and Resurrection*
 - *Christ in Heaven*
 - *Christ as Judge*
- *God the Holy Spirit*
- *The Church (part 1)*



The Church

- “We believe in the holy and complete Church, which is the communion of the saints...”
 - This is another line of the Creed where it would be very helpful for us to focus on definitions of terms (since an amazing number of people use various, mutually exclusive definitions that cause confusion including about how to answer that initial Pop Quiz...)



The Church

- “We believe in the holy and complete Church, which is the communion of the saints...”
 - This is another line of the Creed where it would be very helpful for us to focus on definitions of terms
 - “Holy”
(from “קֹדֶשׁ” [“qādaš”] and “ἅγιος” [“hágios”], meaning “set apart”)
(like Grandma's fancy china that you don't get to use to make your everyday grilled cheese sandwiches on)



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(NOTE: Interestingly, that Greek word comes from an even earlier word, “ἅγιος” [“hágos”], meaning “an _____ thing”)



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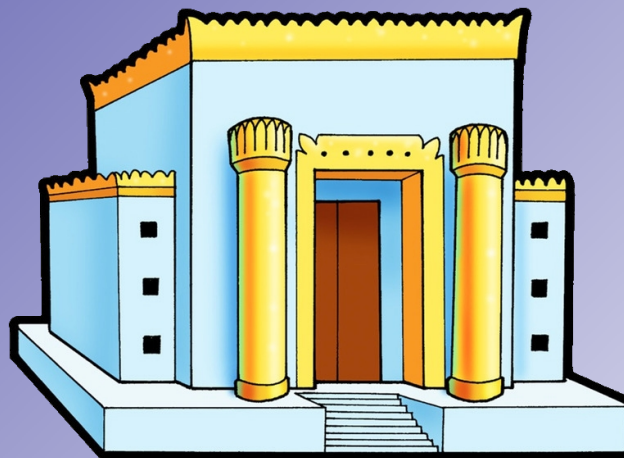
(NOTE: Interestingly, that Greek word comes from an even earlier word, “ἄγος” [“hágos”], meaning “an awful thing”)

(what on earth do those possibly have to do with one another?)



The Church

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 - This is another line of the Creed where it would be very helpful for us to focus on definitions of terms
 - “Holy”
 - Read Ephesians 2:19-22
 - What is Paul saying about the nature of the church?
 - Can you see why people might read this and think “the church building is parallel to the Temple building” in Jewish religious history?
 - But how is that not what Paul is saying?



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 - Read Ephesians 2:19-22
 - What is Paul saying about the nature of the church?
 - Go back and look at verse 19 (for that matter, at verses 11-13) and think about the etymology of “*hágos*”/“*hágios*” here
 - How is the church made up of people who were once “pushed away”/“awful” people but who are now people “brought near” to God to be people “set apart” for God?
 - How should that progression inform the way(s) that we think about “church”?



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 - Read Ephesians 2:19-22
 - How should that inform how we read other parallel verses such as 1 Peter 2:4-5?
 - Are we supposed to have specific priests at altars in churches, standing between the people and God, like priests in the Old Testament did in the Temple where God dwelt?
 - Or are we *all* supposed to *be* priests and to *be* the Temple—where God dwells—pointing one another (including *lost* people) to God?
 - Read 1 Timothy 2:5-6
 - How does that affect our perspective on what we do as Christians within the church?
 - How does that affect our perspective on what we do as Christians with people who are not within the church?

