

1 **The Called Out Body**

The New Testament Church – Part First
The Nature Of The Church – Lesson 1
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2 **Introduction**

Many descriptive phrases are applied to the Church in the New Testament Scriptures. These phrases give emphasis to various features of the Church and set forth its nature. The first six lessons of this series concern these descriptive phrases applied to the Church and therefore constitute a study of The Nature of the Church. They should be studied with this idea in mind.

3 **The Meaning of the Term, Church:**

- Derived from *kuriakos* meaning “of or belonging to the Lord”
- Translation of Greek term *ekklesia*—the actual term used by Jesus and apostles in NT
- Literal meaning of term, “to call out”
- The Church then in NT Scriptures means “a called out body of people”

4 **The Meaning of the Term, Church:**

- Word “Church” used in two senses in the NT:
 - 1) Referring to all those called out of the world into God’s service—universally
– *Matt. 16.18; Eph. 5.23-25; Heb. 12.23*
 - 2) Referring to all those “called out” into God’s service in any definite locality
– *1 Cor. 1.2; 1 Thess. 1.1*

5 **The Nature of This Calling:**

- Called of God—a divine calling
– *1 Pet. 5.10; 1 Cor. 7.15; 2 Tim. 1.7-9*
- Called into fellowship and peace of Christ—into one Body
– *1 Cor. 1.9; Col. 3.15*
- Called to be children of God
– *Rom. 9.25-26; 1 Jn. 3.1*

6 **The Nature of This Calling:**

- Called to be Saints
– *1 Cor. 1.2; Rom. 1.7*
- A Holy Calling
– *1 Thess. 4.7; 2 Tim. 1.9; 1 Pet. 1.15*
- A Heavenly Calling
– *Heb. 3.1*

7 **How Are We Called?**

- Made possible by suffering of Christ
– *1 Pet. 2.21*
- Out of darkness
– *1 Pet. 2.9*
- By the gospel of Christ
– *2 Thess. 2.13-14*

8 **The Hope of This Calling:**

- That we may be worthy
– *2 Thess. 1.11-12; Eph. 4.1-3*
- To inherit a blessing
– *1 Pet. 3.9*
- Unto perfection
– *Php. 3.13-16*
- Make our calling and election sure
– *2 Pet. 1.10*