

ST. MAXIMUS CATECHISM CLASS 2010 HANDOUT
INTRODUCTORY LECTURE 1: THE CHURCH

“He can no longer have God for his Father who has not the Church for his mother.”
St. Cyprian of Carthage (+258) On the Unity of the Church, 6 (v. 5, p. 423)

“They cannot dwell with God who would not be of one mind in God’s Church.”
ibid, 14, p. 426

“Do you think that you can stand and live if you withdraw from the Church, building for yourself other homes and a different dwellings...? [Rahab and family gathered in one house for salvation at Jericho prefigures Church]. Also, the sacrament of the Passover contains nothing else in the law of the Exodus than that the lamb which is slain in the figure of Christ should be eaten in one house. God speaks, saying, ‘In one house shall ye eat it; ye shall not send its flesh abroad from the house’ (Ex 12:46). The flesh of Christ, and the holy of the Lord, cannot be sent abroad, nor is there any other home to believer but the one Church. This home, this household of unanimity, the Holy Spirit designates and points out in the Psalms, saying, ‘God, who maketh men to dwell with one mind in a house’ (Psm 68:6). In the house of God, in the Church of Christ, men dwell with one mind, and continue in concord and simplicity.” *ibid, p. 424*

I John 2:18-19 “Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.”

Genesis 12:1-3 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Matthew 28:19, 20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Matthew 16:13-20 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus

answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.

Matthew 18:15-18 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Ephesians 2:19-22 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Psalm 117 (118):22 "The stone which the builders rejected, the same has become the head of the corner."

Isaiah 28:16 "Behold, I lay for the foundations of Zion a costly stone, a choice, a corner-stone, a precious stone, for its foundations; and he that believes on him shall by no means be ashamed."

Matt 21:42 "Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?" [Mark 12:10; Luke 20:17]

Acts 4:11 "This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner."

I Peter 2:7 "Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner."

Colossians 1:18 “And He is the head of the body, the Church...”

Romans 12:4-5 “For as we have many members in one body, so we, being many, are one body in Christ...” I Corinthians 12:12, 13, 27 “For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles.... Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.”

“But every Lord’s day do ye gather yourselves together and break bread, and give thanksgiving after having confessed your transgressions, that your sacrifice may be pure.” *Didache, xiv (ANF vol. 7 p. 381)*

“Even as this broken bread was scattered over the hills and was gathered together and became one, so let Thy Church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into Thy Kingdom.” *Didache, ix (ANF, v. 7p. 380)*

Revelation 21:9-10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.

Ephesians 5:22-32 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Q. What is the Church? A. The Church is a divinely instituted community of men, united by the Orthodox Faith, the Law of God, the Hierarchy, and the Sacraments. (*Q 252, on article 9 of the Creed*) *Catechism of St. Philaet of Moscow*