

# God's Plan for the Ages Series

## Lesson #019

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Dean Bible Ministries

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**GOD'S PLAN**  
FOR THE **AGES**  
**DISPENSATIONS**  
**DISTINCTIVES OF THE**  
**CHURCH AGE**

# The Parameters of the Church Age

- 1. The Church *began* on the Day of Pentecost, AD 33. Acts 2.**
- 2. Baptism of the Holy Spirit is what forms the Church, the Body of Christ (Acts 1:5; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 4:5). This occurred for the first time at Pentecost in Acts 2 (cf., Acts 11:5–17).**

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- 3. The Church was future and not yet present when our Lord spoke in Matt. 18.**

**Matt. 16:18, “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”**

**Πέτρος Petros**  
**Noun**  
**nom masc sing**  
**(proper)**  
**Peter; a small**  
**fragment of a**  
**stone, a pebble**

**πέτρα petra**  
**dat fem sing**  
**rock, a very**  
**large rock, a**  
**boulder**

**Matt. 16:19, “And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound [have been bound] in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed [have been loosed] in heaven.”**

**Rabbinical idiom expressing authority**

# **The Parameters of the Church Age**

- 4. The Church is said to be a mystery (Romans 16:25, 26; Ephesians 3:1–6; Colossians 1:25, 26). A “mystery” is something that was hidden in the past in the Old Testament period but is now revealed. The Church was never revealed in Old Testament times.**

## **Distinctives of the Church Age**

- a. Union with Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Corinthians 1:2)**

**2 Cor. 5:17, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”**

**1 Cor. 1:2, “To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:”**

**Rom. 6:3, “Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?”**

**Rom. 6:4, “Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”**

**ETERNAL  
REALITIES**

**TEMPORAL  
REALITIES**



**ACTS 16:31**

**IN CHRIST**

**Baptism by the  
Holy Spirit**

A black arrow originates from the bottom of the red cross and points diagonally down and to the left, ending at the text 'Baptism by the Holy Spirit'.

## Distinctives of the Church Age

**b. Jesus Christ indwells every believer (John 14:20; Colossians 1:27).**

**John 14:20, “At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.”**

**Col. 1:27, “To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”**

## **Distinctives of the Church Age**

**c. The Holy Spirit indwells every believer (Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 6:19; cf., John 14:17).**

**Rom. 8:9, “But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”**

**1 Cor. 3:16, “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”**

## Distinctives of the Church Age

c. **The Holy Spirit indwells every believer (Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 6:19; cf., John 14:17).**

**1 Cor. 6:19, “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?”**

**John 14:17, “the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”**

## **Distinctives of the Church Age**

**d. A completed canon of scripture, the Word of God in writing.**

# Distinctives of the Church Age

e. A supernatural way of life (Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 3:16, 20). For the first time in human history believers are commanded to live a supernatural way of life. This was never true of the Old Testament saints.

Gal. 5:16, “I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

# Distinctives of the Church Age

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Eph. 3:16, “that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,”

# Distinctives of the Church Age

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Eph. 3:20, “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,”

# **Distinctives of the Church Age**

- f. The universal priesthood of the believer (1 Peter 2:5, 9). Every believer is a priest in the Church Age.**

**1 Pet. 2:5, “you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”**

**1 Pet. 2:9, “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;”**

# **Distinctives of the Church Age**

- g. Every believer in Jesus Christ is an ambassador representing Christ on the earth (2 Corinthians 5:18–20).**

**2 Cor. 5:18, “Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,**

**2 Cor. 5:19, “that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.**

**2 Cor. 5:20, “Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.”**