

II. Function of the Ekklesia

When did the church of the New Testament begin? A second factor in determining this question is that of function. What does a church do? By the carrying out of what activities and functions can an institution be classified as a church? On page 5 of The First Church S.E. Anderson lists the following twenty-seven functions of the New Testament ekklesia before Pentecost:

1. Christian believers before Pentecost had the gospel (Matt. 4:23; Mark 1:1; Matt. 9:35; 11:5; 24:14; 26:13; Mark 1:14, 15; 8:35; 10:29; 13:10; 16:9, 15, Luke 4:18; 9:6; 20:1, etc.).
2. They were converted (Matt. 3:5-8; 18:3; Luke 19:1-10).
3. They were baptized after conversion (Matt. 3:6; Acts 1:22).
4. They had Christ as Head (Matt. 23:8; Mark 1:1; John 1:29).
5. They were instructed in church truths (Matt. 18:15-20).
6. They were called to obey Christ (Matt. 4:18-20).
7. They were ordained (Matt. 10:1-5; John 15:16).
8. They were commissioned (Matt. 28:18-20).
9. They were organized enough for their needs (John 13:29).
10. They had a missionary program (Matt. 10:1-11; 1).
11. They had a teaching program (Matt. 4:23; 10:1-42).
12. They had a healing program (Matt. 10:1; Luke 9:1; 10:9).

13. They were promised a permanent church (Matt. 16:18).

14. They had church discipline (Matt. 18:15-17).

15. They had divine authority (Matt. 18:18; 28:18-20).

16. They had essentials of church life (Matt. 4:19; 18:20).

17. They had true church democracy (Matt. 23:8-12).

18. They had qualified pastors (John 15:16; 21:15-17).

19. They had the Lord's Supper (Matt. 26:26-28).

20. They had the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13; John 20:22).

21. They had divine power to do Christ's work (Luke 9:1).

22. They sang "in the midst of the church" (Matt. 26:30; Heb. 2:12).

23. They had prayer meetings (Acts 1:14)

24. They had business meetings (Acts 1:14-26).

25. They had a membership roll (Matt. 10:2-4; Acts 1:13-15).

26. They were united and "added unto" (Acts 2:1, 41).

27. Christ was their corner stone (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 2:20).