

CHURCH

Opening Day

Andy Stanley

Scripture: *Matthew 16:16–18; Acts 1:6–8; Acts 2:22–24, 32–33, 36–39, 41*

Idea: The church was born as a movement. It's still moving.

Introduction

I love the church. Our church. I don't know what comes to mind or what you feel when you hear the word church, but chances are it is a far cry from what the first church people thought or experienced. Nobody was bored in the first century. They didn't think building, rows, pews, robes, hymnals, bands, liturgy, etc. **No Bibles, bands, or banners.**

The church was simply a gathering of people who came together around one belief: that Jesus was the risen Christ, the son of the living God. That was all they had. That was enough. The church was a movement. And it got big starting on DAY ONE.

I. The Word

- A. The Greek term translated church in the Greek New Testament is: *e'kkhlsi-a* – an assembly or gathering.
- B. But the English term, **church**, comes from an entirely different Greek term meaning “of the Lord” picked up and adapted by the Goths, an East Germanic Tribe, around 300 AD. **Kirche** – Lord's house. Phonetically, in English, sounds like church. But the German pronunciation is completely different.
- C. This really bad translation created some really bad theology. The church became a **place**, rather than a **movement** or gathering. It was tamed. Localized. Controlled by the people who controlled the building.

[William Tyndale picture]

- D. Then in the sixteenth century, a scholar named William Tyndale did something bold. William Tyndale, often referred to as the “Father of the English Bible,” translated and published the Bible in English from the original Greek and Hebrew texts.

This was **scandalous** because it gave away the power of the “church.” He once said to the bishops of the Church of England, who wanted to keep the Scriptures out of the hands of the common people:

“ . . . if God spare my life, ere many years, I will cause a boy that driveth the plow to know more of the Scriptures than thou dost.”

- E. In 1524, he fled from England to Germany, where his first version of the New Testament was published and smuggled into England. Tyndale continued