

Study Guide: Church Characteristics

To study the topic of Catholic Church's characteristics, consult the paragraphs indicated in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC). **Note that the "In Brief" sections may help answer the questions below.**

1. What does the word **church** mean? Where does it come from? (CCC 751-752)
2. What are some of the Scriptural images used to describe the Church?(CCC 753-755)
3. How long was the Church in preparation? (CCC 760-762)
4. Who instituted the Church? How does it manifest its existence? (CCC 763-766)
5. What two kinds of gifts does the Spirit bestow on the Church? (CCC 768,799-801)
6. In the end, who will the Church encompass? (CCC 769)
7. What does it mean to say that the Church is both visible and spiritual? (CCC 771)
8. What is the mystery of the Church? (CCC 772-773)
9. How is the Church like a sacrament? (CCC 774-776)
10. What are some of the characteristics of the Church viewed as the People of God? (CCC 782)

11. How can the Church be called “priestly, prophetic, and royal”? (CCC 783-786)

12. In view of so many divisions within Christianity, how can the Church be called **one**? (CCC 813-815)

13. What does it mean to say that the Church that Christ founded “subsists in the Catholic Church...alone”? (CCC 816)

14. Why does the Church **not** call Protestants schismatics or heretics? (CCC 818-819)

15. How will the Church achieve unity? (CCC 820-821)

16. Even though the Church is full of sinners, how can it be called **holy**? (CCC 823-827)

17. Why does the Church canonize people? (CCC 828-829)

18. What does it mean to call the Church **catholic**? Is this true just of the global Church or of particular churches? (CCC 830-835)

19. In what three ways can the Church be called **apostolic**? What is the place of bishops in this apostolicity? (CCC 857-862)