

# What is the Church? Who is the Church?



## Who is the greatest?

*Luke 22: 24 – “Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest.”*

Some things never change. Jesus’ disciples were caught discussing who amongst them was the greatest, a conversation that Jesus heard and responded to. What was the matter with them? How could they? We’d never do that. . . would we? Do we?

There always seems to be a tendency to look at Jesus’ disciples and wonder about some of the things they did and said – as if it never occurs to us that we are just like them, and them like us. Don’t believe it? Well listen to today’s conversations, including in the sports world. Constantly, there are discussions about who is the GOAT (Greatest Of All Time) in any sport. In the church, though? Never! Really? Well, isn’t that what the seemingly never-ending quest for titles and recognition is all about?

In church life, titles have a tendency to draw a line between “commoners” and “leaders”, otherwise known as the laity and the clergy. While on a practical note, church titles in and of themselves are not evil, as they identify positions. It’s the attitude that

seems to often go with the title that can make it distasteful, since the label can tend to lift one above the masses and into another class. As that happens, it can cause us to overlook the truth: That we have one Father in heaven, and all the rest of us are equal as brothers and sisters in the family of God.

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I remember seeing a bumper sticker that stated: “Scots are just a wee bit better”, laughing, then wondering aloud why the Scottish (my ancestry) would think they’re better than any other nation - which of course they are not. It seems we’re always looking for ways to elevate ourselves. There are many others, of which “Messianic Jews” is one. That statement, while true, is used by some to give Jewish people who have received Jesus as their Saviour a bit of an upper hand in terms of their status in the body of Christ. And while the Bible states that the Jews have an advantage “in every way. . . because to