1. **History: THE RECORD OF MAN’S PAST**
   a) real events involving real people
   b) accurate records of the events
   c) researchers collect the evidence and describe it

2. **The Church History: THE RECORD OF THE PAST OF THE CHURCH**
   a) real events involving:
      * real dates
      * real names
      * available directly or indirectly
   b) real records of events
      * archeological records
      * written records
   c) researchers have collected the evidence and described it throughout the centuries (such as Eusebius of Caesarea)

3. **The IMPLICATIONS of Church History**
   a) a historical Church proclaims a **HISTORICAL JESUS**
   b) the history of the Church **helps us see THE EFFECTS OF THE CHURCH IN THE SOCIETY**
      * was it “the salt of the earth”?
      * did it transform the pagan world?
      * there is great value in learning about past experiences as we deal with similar present issues
   c) the history can trace **how they continued** (see Acts2,42)
      * the Apostles’ **doctrine**
      * the Apostles’ **fellowship in the breaking of bread**
      * the Apostles’ **Prayers**

4. **Ancient understanding of THE CHURCH**
   a) “**EKKLESIA**“: the Body of believers who were:
      * called
      * enrolled in Discipleship
      * sent to call
      * see John 17, 9-11 & 20-21
b) **The Mystical BODY OF CHRIST**

* the **fallen humanity** of believers is grafted unto

* **Christ’s RESTORED humanity** through the Holy Spirit

* as we read in Ephesians 4, 4-6

c) **the pretaste of heaven**

* God is the King for the believers
* the believers advertise God through their lives
* Christ’s heavenly life is experienced by believers

d) **the Church must be traceable in history**

* authentic, unchanged **doctrine, fellowship in breaking the bread and Prayers** continue in the Church
* individual INNOVATIONS, ADDITIONS and SUBTRACTIONS from the doctrine, the fellowship and the Prayers produces THE HERESIES, the break-aways from the Church

e) **the Church is not perfect, while still in this**

* God’s people in the Old Testament (the good and bad)
* God’s people in the New Testament (the good and bad)

5. **Invisible Oneness of visibly divided groups?**

a) The Bible talks about the “**new people of God**”

* the **“New Israel”**
  - descendants of the 12 Apostles
  - circumcised at heart
  - see 1 Peter 2, 9-10

b) The Bible talks about the **“New Vineyard of God”**

* The old vineyard: **Israel**
  - see Isaiah 5
  - Israel was a **historical** people
  - remained one because of:
    + **“the hedge”**: the Mosaic Teaching
    + **“the tower”**: the Jewish Authority
    + **“the wine vat”**: the Mosaic Worship
* The new vineyard: The Church
  - see Mark 12, 1-11
  - the Church is a historical body of people
  - remained one because of:
    + “the hedge”: the Apostles’ Doctrine
    + “the tower”: the Apostolic Authority
    + “the wine vat”: the Apostolic Worship

c) The Bible talks about the Vine and the Branches

  * see John 15, 1-11
    - one root: The Holy Trinity
    - one Vine: the Son of God Incarnate
    - united Branches: the people of the Church
    - one Sap: the grace of the Holy Spirit

d) The Bible talks about the Groom and the Bride

  * One “Bride”: Israel
    - see Isaiah 62, 5
    - see the Song of Songs

  * one “Bride”: the New Israel, the Church
    - see Ephesians 5, 22-33
    - God’s family with:
      + one way of life
      + one table

e) The Bible talks about the Shepherd and the Flock

  * One Shepherd
    - with one voice
    - showing one way
  * One Flock
    - which knows the voice
    - follow the way
    - goats go their own way
  * see John 10, 14-16

f) The Bible talks about One Temple and One Cornerstone

  * His Body: the New Temple
    - see Matthew 12, 6
    - see John 2, 19-21

  * Believers are called to be “temple”
    - see 1 Corinthians 3, 16
    - see 1 Corinthians 6, 19
* The Church is the Temple built on Cornerstone
  - see Ephesians 2, 17-22
  - it implies:
    + interaction
    + continuity
    + interdependency

g) The Bible talks about One Body and One Head

* see Ephesians 1, 22-23 & 4, 15-16
* see Romans 12, 4-5
* see Colossians 1, 18 & 2, 19
* it implies:
  - interaction
  - continuity
  - interdependency