

## What precisely is the church?

David Ryser tells this story. Trying to put the history of the church in a nut shell, he made this statement in a class-room:

"Christianity started in Palestine as a *body of believers* — a fellowship; it moved to Greece and became a *philosophy*; it moved to Italy and became an *institution*; it moved to Europe and became a *culture*; it came to America and became an *enterprise*."

A young student then asked this question: "*When a body becomes a business, sir, isn't that exactly what a prostitute does?*"