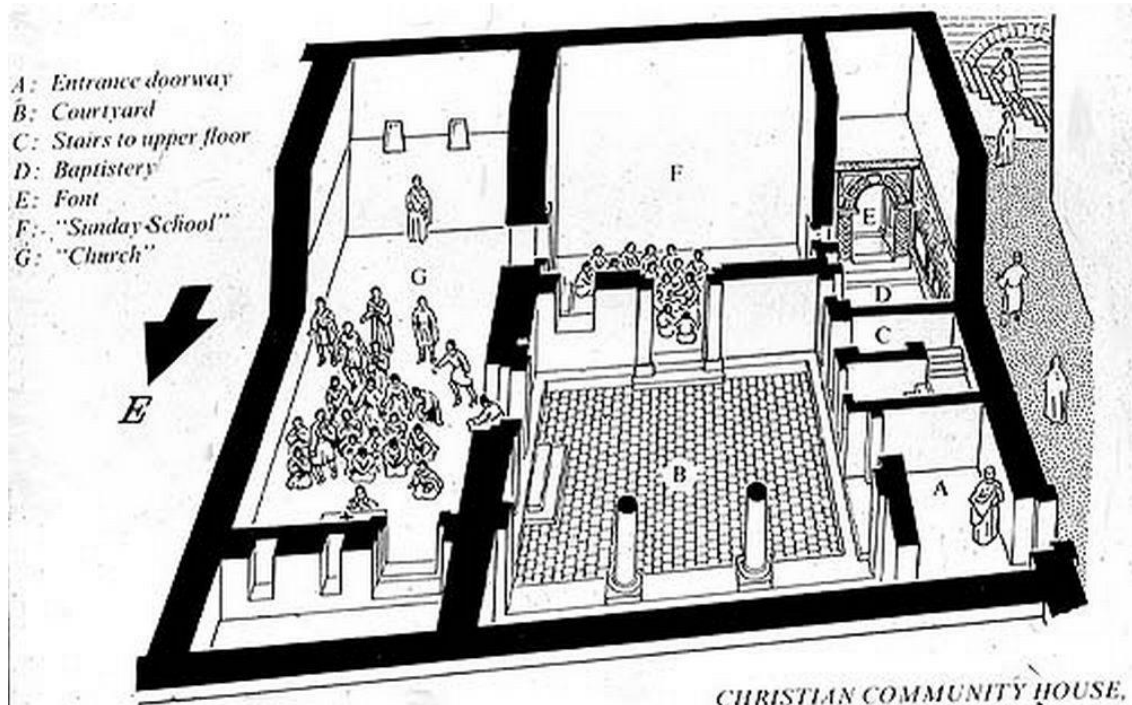


## Resource Sheet 68

### A TYPICAL HOUSE CHURCH

During the persecutions in the first three centuries, Christians often assembled in the larger houses of wealthy Christians that were sometimes modified for this purpose.

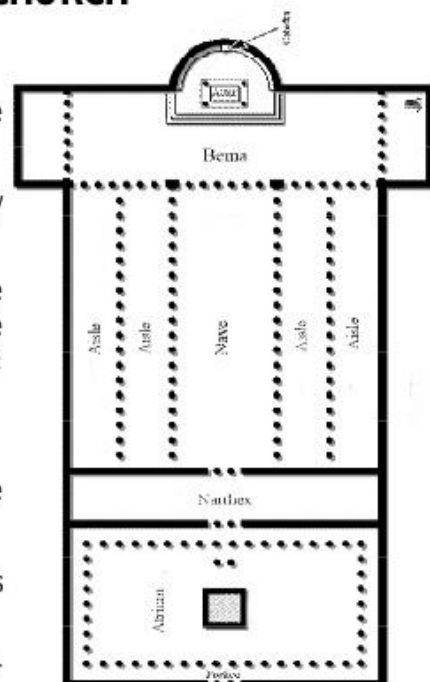
*(this plan reconstructed from the house church remains at Dura Europos, c. 230 / 240 AD)*



After the legalisation of Christianity in 313 AD this design became standard for Christian churches ....

### A TYPICAL BASILICAN CHURCH

- ❖ Commonest form of the early church.
- ❖ Unlike the earlier Roman phase, the interiors were given more importance than exterior.
- ❖ Rectangular hall, timber-roofed with coffers & richly gilded ceiling (hiding the roof truss) on nave.
- ❖ Usually with one or two aisles to each side of the central nave separated by rows of rustic marble columns, sometimes carrying flat entablatures & sometimes, rows of arches.
- ❖ The width of aisles was half that of the central nave.
- ❖ Apse at one end facing the principal entrances at the other end.
- ❖ Bema / Transept - a raised platform where altar was placed & from where the clergy officiated.
- ❖ A courtyard (atrium) having a central fountain for ablutions & surrounded by colonnaded ambulatory.



**Plan of a typical EC Basilica**