

The Church



The Church

- What is the Church
- Why we need the Church
- Descriptions of the Church
- Working together
- Purposes of the Church

What is the Church?

- People who have faith in Christ become part of the Church
- Jesus said “ I will build my church” Matt 16: 18
 - A – The Church is very important to Him
 - B – He loved it so much – gave His life for it
Eph 5: 25

If we have the mind of Christ we will
love the church and give ourselves
to it.



Greek word for church is

ekklesia

Which means – *an assembly*

Acts 19: 39 & 41

Acts 5: 11

Great fear seized the church

Church means all disciples of Christ

It refers to people not to a building

Each local group of believers is a Church

- The Church of God in Corinth – 1 Cor 1: 2
- All the Churches of Christ – Rom 16: 16
- The Church of the Laodiceans – Col 4: 6
- Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her – Eph 5:25

The Church exists on several levels

- Universal level – worldwide includes everyone worldwide who professes that Jesus is Lord
- Local Churches – include unbelievers/people that profess to be Christians but aren't
- Denominations – intermediate level – work closely together because of shared history and beliefs


Why we need the Church

- People claim to believe in Jesus but do not want to attend any of his churches
- Hebrews 10: v 25
- Paul exhorts Christians to do different things together – Rom 12: 10, 15: 7, 1 Cor 12: 25, Gal: 5:15, Eph 4: 32, Phil 2: 3, Col 3: 13, 1 Thess 5: 13
- It is difficult for people to obey these commands if they do not meet together with other believers

The Benefits

- A sense of belonging, of being involved with others
- Spiritual safety – stop us getting blown around with strange ideas
- Friendship, fellowship & encouragement
- Teaches us things we would never learn on our own
- Train children
- Work together for more effective ministry
- Gives us opportunities to serve that help us to grow in ways we did not expect

The value that we get out of a local congregation is in proportion to the amount of involvement that we give to it.



Members need each other

- 1 Corinthians 12: 4 – 7
- He wants us to work for the common good
- God has given different abilities to different believers
- Our time, abilities & resources are needed to fulfil the work and mission of the church
- The commitment of mission-focussed people is essential in order to effectively reflect Jesus and his love to the world
- He wants each of us to be working and not sitting on the sidelines

Descriptions of the church

- The people of God
- The family of God
- The bride of Christ
- A building (1 Cor 3: 9)
- A temple of God
- A body
- Jesus described us as sheep
- He is the Shepherd
- A field of grain
- A vineyard
- A chosen people
- A royal priesthood
- A holy nation a people belonging to God
- His children
- His family

Working Together

You are the body of Christ – each one part of it – 1
Corinthians 12: 27

Jesus is the head of the body, the church

Colossians 1: 18 – we are all members

If we are united to Christ – united to each other

1 Corinthians 12: 21 – I don't need you

1 Corinthians 12: 18 – I don't belong to the Church

No Division (v 25)

Christ causes the Church to grow “as each part does its work” – as the various members cooperate – Ephesians 4: 16

The Church is not yet perfect since none of its members are perfect. Nevertheless Christ wants the Church to be united.

John 17: 21

Purposes of the Church

- *Worship*

- *Teaching*

- *Ministry*

Final thoughts - Ephesians 4: 16

Every worker is needed – some on the front lines and some in support.

Some will plant, some will nurture and some will harvest. As we work together Christ will cause the church to grow.