



The Church

Lesson 2: The Church is a Family, God's House & the Body of Christ

1. Introduction / Review

- God is the originator of the church. It is His idea. It is His plan.
- _____
- God intended for every believer to be a part of a local church.
- _____
- Since He created it, we have no right to redefine the church.
- _____
- Jesus commissioned the church.

2. The Bible has many different pictures, names, and titles given to the church in scripture.

In this lesson, we are going to study three of these pictures:

- The church is a family.
- The church is the house of God.
- The church is the Body of Christ.

The church is a family

1. _____

1 Peter 1:22, 23

John 1:12, 13

When you are born again you become a part of the family.

-
- You must be born again to be a member of the family.
 - Everyone should be welcome to attend a “church service”, but there is a vast difference between being a family member and being a visitor.

2. The New Testament implies church membership.

You are a member of a church, just like you are a member of a family.

Acts 2:41

Acts 6:7

1 Corinthians 14:23

The “whole” church indicates that it should be known when the entire church is present.

3. _____

Acts 9:26, 27

Romans 16:1, 2

The New Testament way of transferring from one church to another was by a letter of recommendation.

When a family sits down at the dinner table they know everyone at the table. The family members are known to each other.

This is the way the local church should be. We know the other members of the family.

4. There is one Father of the family.

Ephesians 1:16, 17

5. There is one elder brother in the family – _____

Romans 8:29

6. There is protection in the family.

God's protection is upon that which He has ordained. It can be seen in the cases of:

- Noah and the ark
- The exodus from Egypt

7. There is discipline in the family.

Discipline is administered with the purpose of restoration.

Galatians 6:1

2 Thessalonians 3:13-15

1 Corinthians 5:6, 7

8. All family members have been cleansed by the same blood.

John 6:53

9. _____

Ephesians 3:14, 15

When we use the name of Jesus – we are declaring the family name.

10. _____

1 Corinthians 15:49

2 Corinthians 3:18

The church is God's house

1. A picture of the church is God's house.

1 Timothy 3:15

A "house" reinforces the picture of the church being a family. A family lives in a house.

The church is called the pillar and ground of the truth.

Definition of PILLAR: _____

Definition of GROUND: _____

The church, like a house, brings stability by giving us a good foundation.

1 Corinthians 3:9

Ephesians 2:21, 22

2. The foundation of the house (church) is Jesus Christ.

Matthew 16:18

3. The cornerstone of the house

What is the cornerstone of a building?

- The cornerstone gives stability to the structure and alignment of adjoining walls.
- The cornerstone was the "final stone" that completed the building and bound the entire structure together. It was also called the keystone.

Isaiah 28:16

Ephesians 2:20, 21

1 Peter 2:6

Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A CHIEF CORNERSTONE, ELECT, PRECIOUS, AND HE WHO BELIEVES ON HIM WILL BY NO MEANS BE PUT TO SHAME."

4. The building materials of the house

1 Peter 2:5

5. Jesus builds the house.

Matthew 16:18

The church is the Body of Christ

1. _____

Ephesians 1:22, 23

2. _____

Colossians 1:18, 19

3. Body members are connected through the bloodstream.

Ephesians 2:13

4. Body members are inter-dependent and needed.

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

5. _____

A body has a skeleton. This bone structure enables the body to move. It brings freedom, not bondage.

The Body of Christ has structure.

- The structure of the church comes from the leadership and government.
- _____

Your pastor is God's gift to you.

Ephesians 4:11-16

There is discipline and accountability in the local church. – There is value in both.

6. _____

1 Peter 4:10, 11

Romans 12:4

The world puts value on you based on what you do.

As Christians we need to understand that our value is not based on what we do, it is based on who we are.

In the Body of Christ there are different functions, _____

7. God reveals Himself through the Body of Christ.

God revealed Himself through His Son Jesus.

John 14:9

The church is the Body of Christ. God reveals Himself today through His church – the Body of Christ.

Matthew 5:16

8. The ministries of the body will complete the ministry of Jesus.

Acts 1:1, 2

Jesus began it. We, as the Body of Christ, have to complete what He began.

Ephesians 1:22, 23

The Body of Christ is the fullness of Jesus.

Definition of FULLNESS: _____