

Discipleship #7 - The Church

Accountability

Since we last met...

1. Have you involved yourself in any activity which is disobedient to God?
2. Have you faithfully maintained your personal walk with God?
- 3.
- 4.

Solo Time With God

From your personal time with God...

1. What is one new idea that you have learned?
2. What is one area of your life where God has been growing you?

Topical Study: The Church

1. What is the Church? 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; 1 Timothy 3:15; Revelation 19:7-9
2. How is the organization of the Church described? Acts 6:1-6; Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Ephesians 4:11,12; 1 Timothy 3:1-13
3. What does it mean that the Church is an organism? Ephesians 1:22,23; Colossians 1:18
4. What does the church look like when it is living in obedience to God? Acts 2:42-47
5. Who is included in the Church? Acts 1:5-9; 2:1-4; Colossians 3:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17
6. Where is the church? Read Matthew 18:20; Hebrews 10:23-25

The Church has been defined as one timeless, interdenominational, interethnic Body, called out by God, led through the prompting of the Holy Spirit, for the glorification of God through individual and corporate submission to the Lordship of Christ, for evangelism and edification.

7. Edification refers to the process of how we grow together as the Body of Christ. To “edify” means to instruct or improve spiritually. Think of constructing an “edifice” or building. The closer we are to Jesus, using our gifts as He directs us, He builds us up to be the spiritual “structure” that best testifies of Him in this world. (1 Peter 2:4,5). Read and consider what the following verses say about edification. Colossians 1:9-12; James 5:13-20:

8. Evangelism is testifying of Jesus by sharing His gospel by how we live and what we say. Evangelism should be the ongoing practice of every believer. Evangelism is what the Church does. Read and consider what the following verses say about evangelism and the role of the Church in the world. Matthew 28:18-20; John 15:8; Romans 15:5,6; 1 Timothy 3:15,16

Two ordinances have been commanded to be the regular practice of the local Church: Baptism and the Lord's Supper (communion). These ordinances are symbolic and do not in any way confer salvation.

9. What does baptism signify? Romans 6:1-11

10. Who is to be baptized? Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:41

Baptism symbolically represents the believer's death and resurrection with Jesus Christ. It is an outward demonstration of the believer's inward faith. By Scriptural definition and practice baptism is by immersion following repentance. As such, according to the command of Jesus it is a public dedication of the believer's life.

11. How did Jesus apply the elements (bread and wine) of the Passover meal to Himself? Matthew 26:26-29

12. Who is able to participate in the Lord's Supper. Acts 2:42,46

13. What should our attitude be while participating in the Lord's Supper? 1 Corinthians 11:23-32

14. What is your role? Every believer has a unique God given place in the Body of Christ. What does God have for you to do? What are you passionate about in serving God? What part of the Church's ministry concerns and interests you? How will you live as a member of the Church of Jesus Christ?

Awesome Fact #1: The Church is God's invading force sent out to penetrate into the darkness of this world (Matthew 5:13,14).

Awesome Fact #2: Nothing can defeat the church or resist her when the Church acts in obedience to Jesus Christ (Matthew 16:18).

Awesome Fact #3: Each believer in Jesus Christ has a crucial role in the ministry of the Church (1 Corinthians 12:4-11).