

# 9. THE CHURCH

## Purpose

To understand God's one church and the role we play in it.

## THE CHURCH IS CHRIST'S BODY

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### Colossians 1:15-18

- » **The Son is the image of the invisible God** - Jesus is the visible creator.
- » **In him all things hold together** - Jesus holds the universe together.
- » **And he is the head of the body, the church** - Jesus = head. Church=body.

*The Greek word for church is "ekklesia," which means a "calling out" or "assembly." In the scriptures, church does not refer to a building but to the people of God.*

### Ephesians 2:19-22

- » **You are no longer foreigners** - Before we were in Christ, we were foreigners.
- » **You are...fellow citizens with God's people** - We are brought into the body of Christ and are welcomed into the Kingdom of God. Our citizenship is in heaven ([Philippians 2:20](#)).
- » **Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone** - Jesus is the primary building block, the pioneer, the model of the church. Each of us are to follow and imitate him.

## THE CHURCH SHOULD BE UNITED

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### 1 Corinthians 1:10-13

- » **I appeal to you that there be no divisions among you** - God's church worldwide should be united.
- » **One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"** - Following personalities creates division. Following man-made doctrines or creeds creates division.
- » **Is Christ divided?** The answer is, "No!" By following Jesus, not people, we can be united.

## YOUR ROLE IN THE CHURCH

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### Ephesians 4:11-16

- » **Christ himself gave {biblical leaders} to equip his people for works of service** - The leadership of the church is in place to teach and empower the Christians for works of service.
- » **We will no longer be blown here and there by every wind of teaching** - The goal of our being together is unity, maturity and the protection from false doctrines.
- » **The whole body grows as each part does its work** - We each have a responsibility to the body. We need to do our part to build unity, maturity, and protect from false doctrines.

Q: In what way can you use your talents to serve in the church?

### 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

- » **God has placed the parts in the body just as he wanted them to be** - God has chosen to have you part of his church at this time for his reasons, just as he wanted it.
- » **There are many parts, but one body** - Even though we are all different in personality, talent, culture and language, we function together as one body.
- » **The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!"** - Every member of the body is significant and serves a purpose. We need the body of Christ!

Q: What are some ways that you believe you can serve the body of Christ?

### Hebrews 10:24-25

- » **Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess** - The convictions that you have developed as we have studied the Bible are precious. Hold onto them with passion!
- » **Let us consider how we may spur one another on** - We all have the responsibility of making plans to help our brothers and sisters spiritually.
- » **Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing** - Being together with the body of Christ is an important commitment to the rest of the body.

Q: What are some ways that you could come to encourage at the next meeting of the body?

Q: Would you move away to a city or town where there is no Church?

## THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH

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### 1 Peter 2:9

God's chosen people (the Church) are called to declare His praises to all people.

### FURTHER STUDY (CAN BE GIVEN AS HOMEWORK)

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Matthew 28:18-20

The mission of the church is to make disciples of all nations.

Acts 2:42-47

A great example of the devotions to the body being lived out.

Hebrews 3:12-13

Encouraging others in the body keeps our hearts from getting hard.

Hebrews 13:17

Follow the church leaders to make their work a joy.