

The New Testament Church

Introduction

What is the church? Is there really a difference between the church in the Bible and the churches of today? Which church did Paul start when he went into a new city? Can we be like the church in the Bible today? If so, how? In this lesson we will examine what the New Testament teaches concerning God's church and how to identify it and be a part of it today.

I. Who Built The Church

A. Matthew 16:13-18, (see 1 Corinthians 3:11)

1. Did Jesus say He would build HIS church? _____
2. If He built His church, then to whom does it belong? _____

B. Colossians 1:18

1. Is Jesus the Head of His church? _____
2. Is the church also called "The Body"? _____

C. Ephesians 4:4-5; 1:22-23

1. Is there only one hope? _____
2. Is there only one Spirit? _____
3. Is there only one body (church)? _____

D. John 17:20-21

1. Did Jesus pray that His followers all be one? _____
2. Do you think Jesus prayed for something impossible to accomplish? _____

E. 1 Corinthians 1:10-13

1. Does this verse condemn religious division? _____
2. Is it wrong to name the church after Paul, Cephas, Apollos, or any other human being? _____
3. Would it also be wrong to name the church after Luther, John the Baptist, or any other man? _____

F. Acts 20:28

1. Who purchased the church? _____
2. If God and Christ bought the church, should their name get the recognition and honor? _____

G. Romans 16:16

1. Do you read of the churches of Christ in the Bible? _____
2. The church was called the Church of God 1 Cor 1:2 – 8 times; Church of the firstborn ones Hebrews 12:23; The Way, Acts 9:2 -5 times; the body Eph 1:23 - 2 times, Family of God (1 Pet 4:17). There was still only one church and every Christian belonged to the same church.

II. Traditions of Men vrs. The Word of God

A. Matthew 15:3-14

1. Is it possible to follow the traditions of men? _____

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2. In verse 13, what will happen to those churches built upon the traditions of men? _____
3. In verse 9, what kind of worship do we offer to God if we follow traditions of men? _____

B. Matthew 23:5-10

1. Did Jesus say it was wrong to wear religious type clothes just to be seen of men? _____
2. Are religious titles like "Father" and "Rabbi" wrong? _____

III. Leadership Ministries

A. Acts 14:23

1. Did these men ordain elders (plural) in every church (singular)? _____

B. Acts 20:17, 28

1. Are the elders to be overseers of the church? _____

C. Titus 1:5-9

1. When Paul told Titus to set things in order, did he tell him to ordain elders? _____

D. 1 Timothy 3:1-7

1. Must an elder (bishop) be married? _____
2. Must an elder (bishop) have children? _____
3. May a recent convert be an elder? _____

E. 1 Timothy 3:8-12; Philippians 1:1

1. What other church minister is mentioned here? _____

F. 2 Timothy 4:5; Acts 21:8

1. What other minister is mentioned in these verses? _____

IV. The Worship Of The Church

A. John 4:24

1. Is God seeking true worshipers? _____ Why? (cf Matthew 22:36-38)
2. Worship means bringing honor and pleasure to God.
3. What are the two elements of acceptable worship? _____ and _____

B. Romans 12:1-2

1. What does this verse teach about our lives as worship to God? _____

C. Luke 22:19-20

1. Did Jesus command His disciples to partake of the Lord's supper? _____

D. 1 Corinthians 11:23-29

1. Did the churches that Paul established partake of the Lord's supper? _____
2. The bread helps us remember and appreciate the _____ of Christ.

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3. The cup helps us remember the _____ of Christ.
4. What do we proclaim as we share the Lord's Supper? _____
5. What happens if we are unappreciative or unloving as we take the Lord's supper :29?

E. Acts 20:7

1. Did the Christians break bread on the first day of the week (Sunday)? _____
2. Sunday was the day Jesus rose from the dead, therefore the early Christians celebrated the resurrection weekly

F. Acts 2:42

1. What four things did the early Christians devote themselves to? _____,
_____, _____, and _____

G. 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 (see also 2 Corinthians 8 & 9 for additional reference)

1. Is it God's will that each Christian give as he has prospered? _____
2. Why is giving so important to our spiritual lives (Matthew 6:19-21)? _____

H. Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16

1. Are Christians to sing? _____
2. With what are we to make melody according to these verses? _____

V. The Mission of the Church

A. Matthew 28:18-20

1. What is the mission of the church according to this verse _____
2. What will your part be in this mission as a member of the church? _____

VI. The Message of the Church

A. Mark 16:15-16

1. What is the message that Jesus commanded to be preached to all creation? "Whoever _____ and is _____ will be _____."

VII. The Purpose of the Church

A. Ephesians 1:9-11

1. The purpose of the church is to bring all things together under one head – Christ
2. The purpose of the church is to bring glory to God

B. Ephesians 2:15-16

1. The purpose of the church is to reconcile people back together, (cf Galatians 3:26-29)

C. Ephesians 3:10-11

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1. The purpose of the church is to declare God's wisdom to the spiritual universe.

VIII. God's purpose for YOU in the church

A. Ephesians 5:25-27

1. What relationship does Jesus have with the church? _____
2. How does Jesus feel about the church? _____
3. Do you think Jesus is pleased if we say we love him, but don't love his bride? _____

B. 1 John 3:16

1. What level of commitment does Jesus want you to have to others in the church?

C. 1 Corinthians 12:12-25

1. Does this passage teach that the church is like a body? _____
2. What happens to you as a Christian if you become unattached to the body, the church?

3. NOTE: the first sign of spiritual declining is inconsistent attendance at worship service and your small group ministry.

D. Hebrews 10:25

1. What does this passage teach about missing church and Bible study and fellowship with other believers?

E. Why you need to be committed to your church family:

1. It identifies you as a genuine believer (John 13:34).
2. It moves you out of self centered isolation (1 John 3:16)
3. It helps you develop spiritual muscle (Ephesians 4:16)
4. You have a mutual responsibility to others in God's family (1 Corinthians 12:27)
5. You get to share in Christ's mission in the world. (Ephesians 2:10)
6. It helps keep you from backsliding (Hebrews 3:13)

IX. Conclusion

A. Ephesians 2:19

1. As you commit yourself to God's family, the church, how does God describe you?

2. Will you commit yourself as a faithful, working member of God's family, the church? ___