

The Church

Discipleship is a Relationship

1. With God
2:42-47
2. With Family
3. With the Church
4. With the Lost

Suggested Memory Verses

Acts

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

Ephesians 4:4

Hebrews 10:24-25

Purpose: to show what Jesus said the Church should be like and that each Christian needs a relationship with the body of Christ, the Church.

Review: What is your response to the study about Biblical conversion?

Can the Lord add/adopt us into the body of Christ (the Church) without Biblical conversion? (Refer to the chart on page 3 of the "Conversion" lesson for details about Biblical conversion.)

Have you been biblically converted, saved the Bible way?

- I. What are some of the contemporary ideas about the Church?
 - A. The church is a building, a social club, an impersonal institution, it is not essential in our moral lives and that "they are all the same."
 - B. What was your concept of the church? What thoughts pass through your mind after you have spent time in "church"?
- II. Jesus came to build His Church. In Matthew 16:15-19, Jesus calls the Church "His Kingdom."
 - A. Christ is the Head of the Church. Read Colossians 1:18
 - B. Christians are the Church, the Body of Christ. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-13
 - C. In becoming a Christian, we established two new relationships. What are they?

(The Church Continued)

III. Does Jesus have an earthly organization for His Church? Yes!

A. Elders: Titus 1:4-9; 1Timothy 3:1-7

Primary responsibility: To provide spiritual direction for the congregation.

B. Deacons: 1Timothy 3:8-10; Acts 6:1-4

Primary responsibility: To provide for the physical needs of the congregation.

C. Evangelist / Preacher: Romans 10:14

Primary responsibility: To preach the gospel of Jesus Christ.

D. Believers: Ephesians 2:17-20; 4:16

Primary responsibility: Every individual converted to Jesus Christ is called to be a Biblical disciple.

Traits of a Disciple:

1. Cross bearer Luke 14:27
2. Word bearer John 8:31
3. Fruit bearer John 15:8
4. Love bearer John 13:34-35

IV. Body Life in the Church

A. Communion - God's Part

1. The Lord's Supper - Established by the Lord Jesus (Luke 22:14-20)

- a. Names given to Communion
 - i. Breaking of the Bread (Acts 2:42)
 - ii. Table of the Lord (1 Corinthians 10:21)
 - iii. Lord's Supper (Luke 22:19)

2. When to Partake

- a. "...Do this in remembrance of Me." (1 Corinthians 11:23-24)
- b. "On the first day of the week..." (Acts 20:7)

3. To follow the pattern of the churches in the New Testament we partake of Communion on the first day of every week.

B. Tithing - disciple's part

1. The Greek words *de kate meris* mean "a tenth part" and comes from *deka* which is the Greek word for "ten."
2. A tithe is a tenth part of a person's income which is given to God.
 - a. In the Old Testament, it was given in the form of grain, fruit, wine, oil, silver, gold, sheep, goats, and cattle. (Deuteronomy 12:5, 6, 11)
 - b. Not tithing was viewed as stifling God's opportunity to bless His people. (Malachi 3:6-12)

(The Church Continued)

3. What does the New Testament have to say about tithing?

With your disciple, look up and discuss the following references:

a. Matthew 6:19-21, 24

b. Matthew 22:15-21

c. 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

4. Who will benefit if I do tithe?

a. It will benefit you first (reliance on God to supply every need)

b. Tithing will also benefit the Kingdom of God.

V. Where do you fit in? 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

A. Every part of the body is essential and different.

Read verses 14-20 and consider the gifts that God has given you. How do you see yourself fitting in to the Body of Christ?

B. You might die without a continuing relationship with the Body. (Verses 21-23)

Illustration: If you cut off your hand, what happens to the rest of your body? It hurts! What happens to the hand? It shrivels and dies. Therefore, we must maintain a close and growing attachment and concern for the body of Christ (The Church). We do this for the Lord, for our fellow Christians, for ourselves, for our families, and for the lost.

Drawing conclusions and receiving challenges from the "Church" study:

A. Do you want to be part of Christ's Church?

B. Are you willing to commit yourself to His Church?

C. Who is in Christ's Church and who is not?

D. Will you serve in Christ's Church? How?

Assignment: Write out what you think is your cost in becoming a Christian. If you are already a Christian, write out what you believe to be your cost in remaining faithful to God through Jesus Christ.