

Lesson 4 – The Church

When you become a Christian, you are a member of God’s family. God is your heavenly father, and all Christians are like brothers and sisters of the same family. “...this household is the church of the living God...” (1 Timothy 3:15). The household is not a building, and the “church” is not a place of worship, but is a body of believers.

I. What is the relationship between Jesus and Christians in the Bible?

(1) (Romans 12:5) _____

(2) (Ephesians 1:22-23) _____

II. What is the position of Christ in the church?

(1) (Ephesians 5:23) _____

III.

The Function of the Church:	Your Needs:
1. Worship: “ _____ God, sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the saints.” (Psalms 149:1)	to worship
2. Fellowship: “ And let us consider how we can spur _____ on toward love and good deeds.” (Hebrews 10:24)	to share
3. Teaching: “and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you...(Matthew 28:20)	to learn
4. Discipline: “ to prepare God’s people _____ so that the body of Christ may be built up.” (Ephesians 4:12)	to serve
5. Live and work in the power of the Holy Spirit: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you...” (Acts 1:8)	to spread the gospel

IV. Can Christians today not attend church?

___ Yes ___ No ___ It Depends

Do you have difficulty attending church? _____

V. Why should you attend church?

- (1) Refer to part III above
- (2) This is God’s command - “And let us not _____ our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:25) NLT
- (3) Avoid deviating from the truth of the Bible.
- (4) In church there are mature Christians to help you.

VI. Rights and Obligations We Have in Church

1. Righteousness we need to fulfill -- **Baptism**

- a. Jesus calls baptism “righteousness”. (Matthew 3: 15)
- b. Baptism is to show, to witness and admit in front of people that we are baptized into Christ Jesus. (Romans 6: 3)
- c. Baptism is to show that we are dead, buried and resurrected together with the Lord. (Romans 6: 4) “We were therefore _____ with him through baptism into _____ in order that, just as Christ was _____ through the glory of the Father, we too may live a ____ life.”
- d. Baptism is to confirm the decision of our faith. We are freed from the dead old person, and live a new life of resurrection. (Romans 6: 6-14)
- e. Baptism is a witness, and it has power to forgive sins. Salvation comes totally by the Holy Spirit. This grace results in faith: confessing with the mouth and believing in the heart. (Romans 10:9)

2. Observance we need to keep – **the Lord’s Supper**

- a. Jesus Himself established it, to be in remembrance of Him, of His death and shedding of blood for our sins. (Matthew 26: 17-19; 26-30)
- b. Whenever we take the Lord’s Supper, Christ himself comes through it to share with us forgiveness and acceptance as his child. “The _____ that brought us _____ was upon him, and by _____ we are _____” (Isaiah 53: 5)
- c. Whenever we have the Lord’s Supper, it helps us to examine our action and faith. (1 Corinthians. 11: 23-29)

3. Sacrifice we need to give – **Offering**

- a. Offering is thanksgiving people give to God, and it is also worship to God. It could be categorized as: living sacrifice of the whole person, life offering, time offering, gift offering, and money offering.
- b. Money offering is what we get to give as part of God’s family. It has three kinds:
 - (1) Tithe -- it is a requirement of God. It belongs to God. It is actually not an offering, but what we need to give. (Leviticus 27: 30 – 31)
(Mal. 3: 8) “You _____ me in tithes and offerings.”
(Mal. 3: 10) “_____, says the Lord Almighty.” This is what we need to offer. We could use the nine tenths of what we have, but the one tenth belongs to God, which we should return back to Him.
 - (2) Offering of gift –
This is real offering, according to the sincere heart and mind. It is your personal decision how much gift you want to offer.
We could not worship God without gift and empty-handed every time.
 - (3) Love offering -- This is offering given to others according to their needs or other usage. Gift and love offerings can’t be replaced by tithe.

There are 5 more lessons in this series:

- ✘ *The Assurance of Salvation*
- ✘ *Daily Devotions*
- ✘ *Understanding Prayer*
- ✘ *God is the Heavenly Father*
- ✘ *Spreading the Gospel*

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