



Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. – Mt. 16:17-18

What is the Church?

- I. We are the _____
Cp. Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:27; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:23
- II. We are a spiritual family of _____
Cp. 1 Peter 3:8; 4:17; Galatians 6:10
- III. We have experienced reconciliation with _____
and _____
Cp. Rom. 10:9-13; 1 Timothy 2:5; John 17:8-10, 20-22
- IV. We are empowered by God's Spirit to share the good news about Jesus with _____.
Cp. Rom. 1:16-17; Matthew 28:19-20

What's the Purpose of the Church?

- I. We exist to _____ ...
Cp. Mt. 22:38-40; John 4:23-24; Romans 12:1-2; Psalm 95
- II. We exist to _____ ...
Cp. Matthew 25:31-46; 1 Peter 4:10; Gal. 5:13; Mark 10:42-45
- III. We exist to _____ ...
Cp. Mt. 28:18-20; 2 Corinthian 5:17-21
- IV. We exist to _____ ...
Cp. Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:3; Romans 14:19; Hebrews 10:24-25
- V. We exist to _____ ...
Cp. Ephesian 4:7-16; 2 Timothy 2:2; Acts 2:42

1. Think about a family that you would consider close ... to each other. How do you observe their closeness? What does it look like? What makes them close?

Being that they are close, do you think they ever have conflict? Differences of opinion? How do they remain close in light of potential differences?
2. Read through the passage (Ephesians 4:1-6) and identify the following:
 - According to verse 1, what are we to do?
 - According to verse 2, what character qualities enable us to do it?
 - According to verse 3, what trait is essential?
 - According to verses 4-6, identify the "Ones" and discuss how each is critical to accomplish the task of verse 1.
3. Is it possible to have a strong family without unity? What does unity look like? Does unity require all parties to agree on everything? What role, if any, does agreement play in unity? Then what is required for unity to occur? Is it a natural outcome in relationships?
4. Our series began this weekend with a survey of John 3:16, and an observation of our "One Faith." What role does faith play in unity?
5. Read John 3:16 from a few translations. What stands out to you in this verse? What faith can we have without God first loving and first giving? Our faith is a matter of responding to His love. Take time to thank God for His love in your group. This is also a good time to share within your group your personal faith stories.
6. Here are a few other questions for thought ...
 - a) Why is the distinction between so-called "clergy" and "laity" harmful? Is there any way in which it is helpful?
 - b) Where is the balance between feeling "adequate for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:17) and feeling inadequate (2 Cor. 2:16; 3:5)? How do we function while yet learning and growing?
 - c) How would the church be different if every member viewed himself/herself as a minister of Christ?



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What is the Church?

- I. We are the **body of Christ**
Cp. Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:27; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:23
- II. We are a spiritual family of **redeemed people**
Cp. 1 Peter 3:8; 4:17; Galatians 6:10
- III. We have experienced reconciliation with **God** and **each other**
Cp. Rom. 10:9-13; 1 Timothy 2:5; John 17:8-10, 20-22
- IV. We are empowered by God's Spirit to share the good news about Jesus with **the rest of the world**.
Cp. Rom. 1:16-17; Matthew 28:19-20

What's the Purpose of the Church?

- I. We exist to **Worship** ...
Cp. Mt. 22:38-40; John 4:23-24; Romans 12:1-2; Psalm 95
- II. We exist to **Minister** ...
Cp. Matthew 25:31-46; 1 Peter 4:10; Gal. 5:13; Mark 10:42-45
- III. We exist to **Evangelize** ...
Cp. Mt. 28:18-20; 2 Corinthian 5:17-21
- IV. We exist to **Live in Community** ...
Cp. Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:3; Romans 14:19; Hebrews 10:24-25
- V. We exist to **Disciple** ...
Cp. Ephesian 4:7-16; 2 Timothy 2:2; Acts 2:42

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