

Title: What is the Church?

Text: (1 Tim 3:15) (Eph 3:21)

(Eph 4:11-14) – Has a divine purpose - a Reason!

What is the Church? *Illus- My early memories was a musty basement and hard pews, and I couldn't color or draw.*

What is it to you?

A building?

A group of precious people?

What is it to God?

The church is a Glorious thing. (Eph 5:27)

The Church is a Holy thing. (Eph 5:27)

We better know what it is and what it is like!

Our society is falling apart Morally because it is falling apart Spiritually.

When did it start – Not in the Old Testament

Established – (1 Cor 12:28) – 1st the Apostles

Not on Peter – (Matt 16:18) “*Upon this Rock*”

(Ps 89:29) “*rock of my salvation*”

(1 Sam 2:2) “*Not any rock like our God*”

(1 Cor 3:11) Christ is the foundation - *Founded upon*

Not in the Upper Room – (Jn 20:19-22)

No Empowerment Mentioned til (Lk 24:49)

(Eph 2:19-20) – build on Apostles and Christ

“*Foundation*” Means founded upon

(Heb 3:1) *Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;*

When did it start? (Lk 6:12-16) also in (Mark 3:13-14)

With whom did he spend 3 years teaching – the 12

With whom did he establish the Lord's Supper – the 11

With whom did he give the Commission to – the 11

(Acts 11:26) “*...the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.*” The disciples did not give themselves this name; it was given to them by the world because of their Christ likeness.

The church was known by its location such as in ...

(1 Cor 1:2) “*Unto the church of God which is at Corinth,*”;

(2 Cor 1:1) “*.....the church of God which is at Corinth,*”;

(Col 4:16) “*the church of the Laodiceans;*”;

(1 Thess 1:1) “*the church of the Thessalonians*”;

(2 Thess 1:1) “*the church of the Thessalonians*”

It is a Local visible assembly of people

If this is where He gets Glory – (Eph 3:21)

If this what Christ gave himself for it – (Eph 5:25)

If this is a glorious Thing – (Eph 5:27)

If it is a Holy Thing – (Eph 5:27)

How do I become a part of this thing? *Illus: the lady who bought the house across for the church in Dunlap.*

1. **Have to be saved!** (Acts 8:36-37)

2 Cor 13:5 I can't tell if you are saved only you&God know

Illus: fruit inspector –

If you can harbor & feed Bitterness. ANGER, Unforgiveness

If you don't love the Bible, the church, or God's Man.

2. **Have to be baptized:** (Acts 2:41) Adds us to the local church.

Is a Local, Visible Assembly of Baptized Believers

3. There are several things we need to notice about baptism.

- a. Water is used - (John 1:33)
- b. There was much water - (John 3:23)
- c. There is the going down into the water - (Acts 8:38)
Immersion
- d. Pictures a burial in water - (Rom 6:4,5)
- e. There is the 'coming up out of water' - (Matt 3:16; Acts 8:39)

If this is where He gets Glory – (Eph 3:21)

If this what Christ gave himself for it – (Eph 5:25)

If this is a glorious thing – (Eph 5:27)

If it is a Holy thing – (Eph 5:27)

He did not create this thing for no reason

This is where He expects a Divine Purpose to be Accomplished – (Eph 4:11-12)

We are to Bring him Glory (Eph 3:21) –

Bring Him Glory by Fulfilling His Purpose (Eph 4:11-19)

(Matt 28:19-20) Great commission (John 20:21)

(2 Tim 2:2) be a multiplying Disciple!

What is it's purpose?

1 Tim 3:15 *Pillar and Ground of the Truth!*

Jn 4:23-24 *Worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.*

Matt 28:19-20 *The Great 3 fold Commission!*

Everything we do must work toward fulfilling these.

Paved Parking, Nursery, Preaching, Bible Teaching

Advertising, Soul Wining, Conferences

All of these are to reaching the lost, and equipping the saints

Why is Church so Important?

It's a Command! (Heb 10:25)

We need it! (Heb 10:24) to encourage us!

(Prov 27:17) *Iron Sharpeneth Iron*

(2 Tim 2:2) To teach us!

(1 Tim 5:20) To correct us!

(Rom 10:17) Our Faith Grows!

(1 Cor 1:21) People get saved!

So How Do We Go To Church?

ITS NOT HARD! We DO WHAT WE WANT TO DO!

Maybe this will be helpful!

Start off Right! Start Saturday Night!

Set out your Clothes (Ex 19:10)

Plan Lunch – (Ecc 9:7, 1 Cor 10:31)

Take Baths – 18 times the children of Israel are commanded to bathe before worship.

Devotions – Get up early and seek the Lord (PS 57:8)

Show up Right!

Illus: Who is it that doesn't want you to go to church?

*Is that feeling from God? **NO***

Who wins if you don't go to church?

Whose kingdom is benefited?

Show UP!

(Jn 20:24-25) Thomas missed Jesus and the Blessing

Vs 22 *He breathed on them!*

(Ps 63:1) *Come hungry*

Arrive Early: (Pr 8:17)

Jesus Showed up early (Jn 8:1-2)

The Apostles showed up early (Acts 5:19-21)

Behave Right! I Tim 3:15

Smile – (Prov 27:17) *Iron Sharpeneth Iron*

Illus: Fuss all the way to church, & paint on a fake smile.

Friendly –(Prov 18:24) *WARM WANTED WELCOME*

Shake Hands – (Gal 2:9)

Park in the Back - Sit Down Front

Tithe – (Mal 3:10; 1 Cor 16:2) *Sign of Worship.*

Sing Out - (Psa 9:11) (Psa 30:4) (Ps 47:6-7)

(Ps 59:16-17) (Ps 81:1) (**Heb 2:12*****)

It Prepares the Heart for the Message!

Say Amen – Interact with the Preacher!

(Ps 106:48 Ps 107:1-2)

Water and Fodder before, between, and after Services.

Illus: They can sit all afternoon on the video game without food, water, or the restroom.

Finish Right!

Start to the Altar on the 1st verse.

Don't be a book end!

Someone is waiting for you to step out.

The Word was preached, God should have spoken to you

If not, go to the altar and find out why not! (1 Pet 5:6-7)

Don't leave during the invitation. Distracts attention from the Holy Ghost.

Leave Right! Leave planning to return at the next service. (Heb 10:24-25)

3 to Thrive

God made the church because we need it. *Illus: If we willingly stay home, we are not right with God!*

Don't listen to the Blasphemers that bad mouth God's House, God's People, God's Man or God's Word!

A Local, Visible, Assembly, of Baptized Believers who have covenanted together to carry out God's Great commission.

Join IT –

(Acts 9:26) *And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple.*

(Rom 16:1-2) Phebe's letter transfer

(Phil 2:25-30) Epaphroditus

Love IT - You Pray for the people you love

Support IT -

(Mal 3:10)

(1 Cor 16:1-2)

(Matt 6:21) *"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."*

Fulfill it's Purpose - *Illus: we do what we want to do.*

Month of March: Saturday Outreach.

Personal Outreach: Target neighbors/Coworkers

Bring Him Glory – *Illus: Whose Life is it anyway!*

(Gal 2:20)