

THE CHURCH

----- Discussion -----

1. How would you define the church?
2. Who makes up the church?
3. What does the church do?
4. Why is it important for a follower of Christ to be part of a local church?

THE CHURCH IS LED BY JESUS

“The church is the body of people called by God’s grace through faith in Christ to glorify Him together by serving Him in the world”. - Mark Dever, The Gospel Made Visible

The covenant between Jesus and His church is characterized by being one with Jesus, being led by Jesus, being loved by Jesus and being provided for by Jesus.

THE CHURCH IS THE BODY OF CHRIST

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

What does vs 7 say these gifts are used for?

For the _____ - or building up - of the church. They are not for our own applause, or to hoard and enjoy just for ourselves. They are to be used in the body of Christ to move the church forward.

List the gifts in these passages:

1 Corinthians 12:1-11	Romans 12:6-8

What is Paul saying in 1 Corinthians 13:1-3?

Gifts are great. But without love, they’re useless.



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THE WORSHIP AND CHARACTER OF THE CHURCH

What should we be doing for each other in the church?

- Romans 12:10 _____ to one another
- Galatians 5:13 _____ one another
- Galatians 6:1-2 _____ each other's burdens
- Ephesians 4:32 _____ and _____ to one another
- Philippians 2:3 _____ others above self
- 1 Thessalonians 5:11 _____ one another

A healthy church worships. It responds to the work and glory of God with praise, ministry, fellowship and spiritual growth. It's marked by prayer. It reflects the love of Christ to each other and to the world.

THE CHURCH IS AT WAR

Do not think for one minute that Satan is not active both inside and outside of the church. He will use any tactics needed to try and tear us down – false teaching, persecution, division (over social issues, politics), etc.

Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Acts 4:23-31; 2 Corinthians 1:8-11; James 5:16

The church that prays can stand against the enemy. The church that prays will push back the darkness. We need to remember that we are the church.

"The prayer life of a church is only as strong as the prayer life of its people!" - Mary Wiley

THE CHURCH IS DISTINCTLY MISSIONAL

Matthew 28: 19-20 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Three people I can tell about Jesus this week:
