

Fundamentals of the Faith
Lesson #9 – The Church: Fellowship & Worship

I. The Church _____

A. Definition

The church is people:

- Living and loving
- Learning and laboring
- Leading and following

Together for the Glory of Jesus Christ !!

1. Those that are called - Colossians 3:15 - LESSON I.C.1

*"And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed **you were called in one body**; and be thankful."*

2. Those that are Baptized into one body - 1 Corinthians 12:13 - LESSON I.C.2

*"For **by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body**, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."*

B. The Believer's relationship to _____ and to _____:

1. Family

- a. Children of God - John 1:12

*"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become **children of God**, even to those who believe in His name,"*

- b. Brothers & Sisters - 1 Corinthians 7:15

*"Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave; **the brother or the sister** is not under bondage in such cases, but God has called us to peace."*

- c. Christ is our brother; God is our Father - Hebrews 2:11

*"For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for which reason **He is not ashamed to call them brethren.**"*

2. Flock of _____

a. John 10:11

"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."

b. John 10:16

*"And I have other **sheep**, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they shall hear My voice; and they shall become **one flock with one shepherd.**"*

3. _____ - John 15:5

"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing."

4. _____ & _____

a. **Christ is pictured as the Bridegroom** - Mark 2:19-20

19 *"And Jesus said to them, 'While the **bridegroom** is with them, the attendants of the bridegroom do not fast, do they? So long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast.*

20 *"But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day.'"*

b. **The marriage of the lamb** - Revelation 19:9

*"And he said to me, 'Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the **marriage supper of the Lamb.**' And he said to me, 'These are true words of God.'"*

c. **The _____ is the Bride**

(1) 2 Corinthians 11:2

"For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one

husband, that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin."

(2) Ephesians 5:25-27

(see 5:23 for context, "*For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church ...*")

25 *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her;*

26 *that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,*

27 *that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless."*

... As the **Bride of Christ:**

- We, the Church, belong only to Christ.
- We, the Church, must be kept pure and chaste.
- Church discipline.

5. _____ of Christ

a. **Christ is the Head** - Ephesians 1:22,23

(LESSON I.A.1, pg. 59, uses Col. 1:18 and Eph. 5:23)

22 *And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to **the church,***

23 *which is **His body,** the fulness of Him who fills all in all.*

b. **We each have a different function** - Romans 12:4-6

4 *"For just as we have many members in one body and **all the members do not have the same function,***

5 *so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.*

6 *And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith;"*

5. Body of Christ (continued)

c. 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (here for completeness, only if needed)

12 *"For even as the **body is one and yet has many members**, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.*

13 ***For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.***

14 *For the body is not one member, but many.*

15 *If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body,' it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body.*

16 *And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body,' it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body.*

17 *If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?*

18 *But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.*

19 ***And if they were all one member, where would the body be?***

20 *But now there are many members, but one body.*

21 *And the eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you'; or again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.'*

22 *On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary;*

23 *and those members of the body, which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our unseemly members come to have more abundant seemliness,*

24 *whereas our seemly members have no need of it. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked,*

25 *that **there should be no division in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.***

26 ***And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.***

27 *Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it."*

II. The _____ Church

Note: Do 1st part of Lesson II.A

A. The spiritual duties of the Church - Acts 2:42 (LESSON, II.A.3, pg. 60)

*"And they were **continually devoting themselves** to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."*

B. Gifted men given to the Church - Ephesians 4:11,12 (LESSON II.B)

*11 "And He gave some as **apostles**, and some as **prophets**, and some as **evangelists**, and some as **pastors and teachers**,*

*12 **for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;**"*

1. Apostles

- a. Definition: One sent on a mission
Most technical sense in N.T. - the twelve
- b. The twelve (Apostles of Jesus Christ) - Mark 3:16-19
 1. Simon (to whom He gave the name Peter)
 2. James, the son of Zebedee
 3. John the brother of James
(to them He gave the name Boanerges, which means, "Sons of Thunder")
 4. Andrew
 5. Philip
 6. Bartholomew
 7. Matthew
 8. Thomas
 9. James the son of Alphaeus
 10. Thaddaeus
 11. Simon the Zealot
 12. Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him.
(replaced by Matthis (Acts 1:26)
- c. Paul - uniquely set apart to the Gentiles (Galatians 1:15-17)
- d. Christ is the foremost Apostle - Hebrews 3:1

*"Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider **Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession**."*

e. Qualifications:

- Chosen directly by Christ - Mark 3:13
- Witnessed the resurrected Christ - Acts 1:22-24

Note: Therefore, it is not possible for there to be apostles in the Church today.

f. Apostles (messengers of the Church - 2 Cor. 8:23)

- Barnabas - Acts 14:4
- Silas & Timothy - 1 Thess. 2:6
- Others - Rom. 16:7; 2 Cor. 8:23; Phil. 2:25

2. Prophets - spoke revelation from God - Acts 11:27-28

— We believe that the office of Apostle and Prophet ceased with the completion of the New Testament - Ephesians 2:20

"having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone,"

(The MacArthur N.T. Commentary, Ephesians, pg. 142)

3. Evangelists

- gifted men given to the church to reach the lost
- This should be a priority of the church

4. Pastors/teachers

a. *Pastor:* means shepherd
care, protection

b. *Teachers:* the primary function of *pastors*.

c. The commission - 2 Timothy 4:2-4

"preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction."

APPLICATION Why were these gifted men given to the Church?
<p>_ Ephesians 4:12</p> <p><i>12for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;"</i></p> <p>➤ <u>To equip the saints</u></p> <p>Q. So what are two things that you should look for in a Church?</p> <p>➤ A place where I can be equipped</p> <p>➤ A place where I can serve</p> <p>Q. Have you thought about serving in the Church?</p> <p>Q. Are you here to equip yourself so you can build up Christ's Church?</p>

C. The _____ of the Church

Question: Congregational rule?
 Pastoral rule?
 Pope?

1. Elders

a. The appointment of elders

* (1) Paul & Barnabas appoint elders - Acts 14:23

*"And when they had **appointed elders for them in every church**, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed."*

Note: The they are Paul & Barnabas (see verses 19 & 20)

(2) Elders in every city - Titus 1:5

*"For this reason I left you in Crete, that you might set in order what remains, and **appoint elders in every city** as I directed you,"*

b. Qualification of Elders

- (1) 1 Timothy 3:1-7
- (2) Titus 1:6-9

c. Responsibilities of Elders

- (1) **Elder are to rule** - 1 Timothy 5:17

*"Let the **elders who rule** well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching."*

- (2) **Shepherd the flock & give Oversight** - 1 Peter 5:1-2
(LESSON II.B.2, pg. 61)

1 *"Therefore, I exhort the **elders** among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,"*

2 ***shepherd the flock of God** among you, **exercising oversight** not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;"*

- (3) **The decisions of the Elders must be unanimous**

- 1 Corinthians 1:10

*"Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that **you all agree**, and there be no divisions among you, but you be made complete in the **same mind** and in the **same judgment**."*

- "The Holy Spirit is undivided - Philippians 1:27

*"Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ; so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I may hear of you that you are **standing firm in one spirit**, with **one mind** striving together for the faith of the gospel;"*

Q. How should the Elders stand? ... firm in one spirit, one mind

- Also Ephesians 4:3-6; Philippians 2:2

- * d. Our _____ to the Elders - Heb. 13:17 (LESSON, pg. 61, II.B.2)

"Obey your leaders, and submit to them; for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you."

2. Deacons

- a. Qualifications - 1 Timothy 3:8-13 (HANDOUT)

- b. Definition: servant - Acts 6:2-4

Note: In order to serve or teach at Grace Church you must meet the qualifications of deacon or deaconess.

3. Members (LESSON II.B.4, pg. 61)

- a. Hebrews 10:25 (LESSON II.B.4.a, pg. 61)

"not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near."

III. Fellowship

- * ➤ **Question:** What is fellowship?

A. Definition

1. Comes from the Greek word *koinonia*.
2. Means to share in something with someone.
3. To share something in common.
4. Used 20 times in the New Testament.
5. The Latin equivalent is *communio* --> communion.

B. We have fellowship with God & Other believers

- Simply note the table on the bottom of LESSON, pg. 62.
Verses below are for instructors use as needed.

1. Fellowship with God

- 1 John 1:3 - LESSON III.D (table)

*"what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, that you also may have **fellowship with us**; and indeed **our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.**"*

- 2 Corinthians 13:14 - LESSON III.D (table)

*"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and **the fellowship of the Holy Spirit**, be with you all."*

2. Fellowship with other believers

- 1 John 1:7 - Lesson III.D (table)

*"but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, **we have fellowship with one another**, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin."*

Fellowship

Sharing something in common

What do we share in common with all believers? ... Salvation
What do we share in common with God? ... Christ's sacrifice

C. The basis of _____ Fellowship

1. Based on our salvation in Christ

- a. 1 Peter 1:22-23

22 *"Since you have **in obedience to the truth purified your souls** for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,*

23 *for you have **been born again** not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding word of God."*

True Fellowship

Founded on the common ground at the foot of the cross

- We were all sinners in complete darkness.
- We were all unworthy of Christ righteousness.
- We were all given the free grace of God and the forgiveness of our sin.
- We have all been purified in Christ's blood.
- In response we all love Christ & have given our lives over to Him.
- We share a common purpose - to glorify God and to build up His church.

- Q. Have you ever experienced the bond between Christians?
... A bond that exists even though you have never met.
... A bond that breaks the barriers of nationality.

2. True fellowship cannot be shared with an unbeliever

- a. We can have no harmony with an unbeliever - LESSON III.D
2 Corinthians 6:14-15

14 *"Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?*

15 *Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?"*

Question: How are believers and unbelievers described?

1. Believers: Righteousness, light
2. Unbelievers: Lawlessness, darkness

Note: Belial = Satan

- b. They reject the one we seek to lift up and bring glory to: Christ.

D. _____ Fellowship - with other believers

_ Do LESSON, pg. 62, sections A,B,C (verses below for reference)

1. Exhortation to Unity - 1 Corinthians 1:9,10 (LESSON III.A)

9 *"God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

10 *Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree, and there be **no divisions among you**, but you be made complete in the **same mind** and in the same judgment."*

Note: The mind of Christ - 1 Cor. 2:16

*"For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct Him? But we **have the mind of Christ.**"*

Q. What is God's desire for every local church?
.. no divisions; unity; one mind; one purpose

Q. What is the one mind? ... to serve Christ & build His church.

2. _____ to Unity (LESSON III.B,C)

a. Gentleness, patience - Ephesians 4:2-3

2 *"with **all humility and gentleness**, with **patience**, showing forbearance to one another in **love**,*

3 *being **diligent to preserve the unity** of the Spirit in the bond of peace."*

b. Humility - Philippians 2:1-4

1 *"If therefore there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion,*

2 *make my joy complete by **being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.***

- 3 *Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself;*
- 4 *do not merely look out for your own personal interests, **but also for the interests of others.**"*

3. **Exhortation: The one anothers**

- ... (handout) ... next two pages.
- Have students take turns reading through the list.
- Highlight a few

FELLOWSHIP

The *One Another's* of the New Testament

- Be at peace with one another Mark 9:50
- Love one another John 13:34
- We are individually members of one another Romans 12:5
- Be devoted to one another Romans 12:10
- Give preference to one another Romans 12:10

- Being of the same mind toward one another Romans 12:16
- Don't judge one another's liberty Romans 14:13
- Be of the same mind as one another Romans 15:5
- Accept one another Romans 15:7
- Admonish one another Romans 15:14

- Greet one another with a holy kiss Romans 16:16

- Don't have lawsuits with one another 1 Corinthians 6:7
- Marriage couples are not to deprive one another 1 Corinthians 7:5
- Wait for one another at the Lord's table 1 Corinthians 11:33
- Care for one another 1 Corinthians 12:25

- Serve one another Galatians 5:13

- Don't bite and devour one another Galatians 5:15

- Don't become boastful in challenging one another Galatians 5:26
- Don't be envying one another Galatians 5:26
- Showing forbearance to one another Ephesians 4:2
- Be kind to one another Ephesians 4:32
- Speak to one another in psalms & hymns & spiritual songs ... Ephesians 5:19
- Submitting to one another in the fear of Christ Ephesians 5:21
- Regard one another as more important than himself Philippians 2:3
- Do not lie to one another Colossians 3:9
- Bearing with one another Colossians 3:13
- Teaching and admonishing one another Colossians 3:16
- Abound in love for one another 1 Thessalonians 3:12
- Comfort one another 1 Thessalonians 4:18
- Bear one another's burdens Galatians 6:2
- Encourage one another 1 Thessalonians 5:11
- Build up one another 1 Thessalonians 5:11
- Live in peace with one another 1 Thessalonians 5:13
- Don't repay one another with evil 1 Thessalonians 5:15
- Seek the good of one another 1 Thessalonians 5:15
- Don't hate one another Titus 3:3
- Stimulate one another to love and good deeds Hebrews 10:23

- Don't forsake assembling with one another Hebrews 10:24
- Do not speak against one another James 4:11
- Do not complain against one another James 5:9
- Confess your sins to one another James 5:16
- Pray for one another James 5:16
- Fervently love one another from the heart 1 Peter 1:22
- Be hospitable to one another without complaint 1 Peter 4:9
- Employ your spiritual gift in serving one another 1 Peter 4:10
- Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another 1 Peter 5:5
- Have fellowship with one another 1 John 1:7

E. _____ with God

1. Fellowship _____ at the Cross

Note: Fellowship means to share in something with someone.

Q. In the following passages ...

What are we to be willing to share in with Christ?

a. 1 Peter 4:12,13

12 "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

*13 but to the degree that you **share the sufferings of Christ**, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation."*

b. Romans 8:16,17

16 "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

*17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, **if indeed we suffer with Him** in order that we may also be glorified with Him."*

c. **Paul suffered** - Philippians 3:8-10

*8 "More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, **for whom I have suffered the loss of all things**, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ,*

9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,

*10 that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and **the fellowship of His sufferings**, being conformed to His death;"*

2. Communion

a. **Ordinances:** One of two ordinances given to the church by Christ.
The other is Baptism.

b. Purpose of Communion:

Q. What is the purpose of communion?

... To keep us in remembrance of Christ's death.

... To associate ourselves with Christ's death (xref John 6:53-58)

c. Communion instigated at Passover - Matthew 26:19,26-29

19 And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover.

26 "And while they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."

27 And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you;

28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

29 But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

Context: Jesus with His disciples observing the Passover (verse 19)

NOTE: The Passover was transformed into the "Lord's supper" or communion.

d. The ordinance of communion - 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread;

24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

25 In the same way He took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

*

e. Warning of communion - 1 Corinthians 11:27-30

27 *"Therefore **whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.***

28 *But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.*

29 *For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself, if he does not judge the body rightly.*

30 *For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep.*

NOTE: Confession is an integral part of communion.

IV. _____ God

Transition: Close fellowship with God drive us to worship Him.

A. It has been said:

"People play at their worship, worship their work, and work at their play."

B. Definition: Worship

1. To ascribe worth or value
2. Scripturally, the word translated *worship* is derived from the ancient practice of bowing oneself to the ground in reverence.

_ Exodus 34:8 - Moses bowed down and worshiped - LESSON IV.D.1

"And Moses made haste to bow low toward the earth and worship."

3. Note: The word for worship means:

- bowed down
- paid homage
- prostrated
- worship

C. Worship belongs exclusively to God

1. Exodus 20:4-6

4 *"You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.*

5 ***You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me,***

6 *but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments."*

2. Isaiah 42:8

*"I am the Lord, that is My name; **I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise to graven images.**"*

D. _____ worship

1. God wants worship from the heart - Matthew 15:8-9

8 *"This people honors Me with their lips, But **their heart is far away from Me.***

9 *'But **in vain** do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.'"*

2. We are to worship - in spirit and truth - John 4:24 - LESSON IV.A, pg. 63

*"God is spirit, and those who worship Him must **worship in spirit and truth.**"*

Note box in lesson (IV.A):

If we are to worship God in truth (i.e., not in error), then we must seek to know Him by learning His attributes and actions.

V. **Worship God by Giving God _____**

A. **Our lives should be a _____ of God's glory – 2 Corinthians 3:18**

*"But we all, with unveiled face **beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord**, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit."*

– **God's Glory reflected back to Him by us - through acts of devotion:**

➤ **Glorifying God in all that you do - 1 Cor. 10:31**

*"Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, **do all to the glory of God.**"*

➤ **Glorifying God in Prayer - John 14:13**

*"And whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, **that the Father may be glorified in the Son.**"*

➤ **Not sinning with our body - 1 Corinthians 6:18-20**

18 *"Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.*

19 *Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?*

20 *For you have been bought with a price: therefore **glorify God in your body.**"*

B. **The _____ of the Gospel - gives God glory**

1. 2 Corinthians 4:15

*"For all things are for your sakes, that **the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God.**"*

2. Salvation - Philippians 2:9

*"and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, **to the glory of God the Father.**"*

VI. APPLICATION

A. Remember: Your relationship to Christ & other believers

- Family Christ calls us brethren; God is our father
- Flock Christ is our Shepherd
- Vineyard Christ is the vine
- Bride Christ is the Bridegroom
- Body Christ is the Head

B. Remember your Church Leadership:

- Submit to the Elders God gave them to us to watch over our souls.
- Pray for the Elders & support them
- Seek to serve in the church

C. Remember the Fellowship of the Believers

- The common ground at the foot of the cross
- Practice the "One anothers"

D. Remember to offer up to God - true worship

- Always from the heart
- Bring Him glory through your life