



United Community Church

Pastor Ron Burks 3/12/17

Definition of church: The church was established by God & is comprised of individual members who are under the head Jesus Christ (our AUTHORITY for living and governing), empowered & gifted by the Holy Spirit to work together (ALIGNMENT with Christ & each other) to build the body of Christ (ACCOUNTABILITY to Christ & each other), and live out our faith for the world to see (AUTHENTICITY). (These are UCC's 4 Core Values).

My Relationship with the Lord in the Body of Christ

1. I am a "prisoner for the Lord", Eph 4:1
Prisoner indicates a master/slave relationship and describes my obligation/responsibility to God. My rights to my life & my selfish desires were relinquished when I came to Christ. Therefore, I am obligated to serve Christ & follow His will. However, God gives me a choice to serve Him out of love and appreciation for His grace and love toward me.
2. I am responsible to "walk worthy of my calling", Eph 4:2
The word "worthy" means "to weigh the same as". Therefore, my walk must weigh the same as my calling
 - I am called to – salvation (2 Tim 1:9), fellowship with Christ (1 Cor 1:9), holiness (1 Thess 4:7), serve one another (Gal 5:13), be part of the body of Christ (Col 3:15), from darkness to light (1 Pet 2:9), His purpose (Rom 8:28-29), walk in the spirit not the flesh (Gal 5:16)
 - My walk includes my personal life (humility, gentleness, patience, and bearing with one another in love - Eph 4:1-3), maintaining unity of the Spirit (Eph 4:4-6), and putting off the flesh and putting on Christ (Eph 4:20-32)

Does Your Walk Match Your Call?

1. You are called to be a Christian but do you walk like a Christian in humility, gentleness, patience, and bearing with one another in love? (Eph 4:2)
2. You are called to be part of the body of Christ but do you participate in the body seeking to maintain unity in the Spirit? (Eph 4:3)
3. You are appointed to bear spiritual fruit (Gal 5:16-26) but do you put off the flesh & put on Christ in your life? (Eph 4:20-32)

My Relationship with the Church As a Member of the Body of Christ

1. Maintain the unity of the Spirit, Eph 4:3-6

- Why must the church maintain unity? To carry out the work of the church
 - How does the church maintain unity? We worship and serve one God together
 - Read John 17:11,21. What does Jesus say about unity in Jn 17:11? What is the purpose of unity according to Jn 17:21?
2. Understand we are all one in Christ, Eph 4:4-6
 - We are all inhabited by one Spirit
 - We submit to one Lord
 - We serve one God & Father who is over all, and through all and in all
 3. We all receive the gift of grace, Eph 4:7
 - Grace that redeemed us from sin by offering forgiveness through the blood of Christ & offers us an eternal inheritance sealed by the Holy Spirit, Eph 1:7-14
 - Grace that reconciled us to God for the purpose of serving Him through our works (not to save us), Eph 2:8-10
 - How do we practice Grace? Eph 5:1-2

What is Your Relationship to the Church (The Body of Christ)?

1. Do you Know Jesus Christ personally? You can't be a member of the body of Christ if you don't know Christ personally. Did you reach a point in your life where you recognized your sin, asked Christ for forgiveness, and asked Christ into your heart as Savior? (Rom 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, 10:9-10, 13) Do you see spiritual fruit in your life that indicates you belong to Christ? (John 15:1-6, Gal 5:22-25)
2. Do you maintain your relationship with Christ? If you don't, He will not be a priority on your life. Is Christ a priority in daily life (you spend time with him every day and live for him – Eph 4:1-5:2)? your marriage (Do you love your spouse (Eph 5:21-33)? Do you raise your children in a godly home (Eph 6:1-4)?
3. Do you accept your responsibility within the body of Christ to equip, minister, and build up the body (Eph 4:1-16)? If you do, do you see evidence of it (Eph 4:17-32)