



Fundamentals - Class 4

The Church

The Breakdown

1. THE BODY
2. COMMUNITY
3. SERVANTHOOD
4. GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

1. THE BODY

A) A Body Not A Building

Contrary to traditional language, the Church is not a building. This is great news! God is far more interested in the people He has created than He is in the buildings His people construct.

The New Testament primarily refers to the Church in two categories interchangeably: *local* and *global*. The local church is an assembly of Christians living in the same location (i.e., Rice Lake, WI). The global Church is all Christ-followers around the world, even those throughout history.

The Local Church (i.e., 1 Corinthians 1:2)	The Global Church (i.e., Colossians 1:18)
Physical and visible (anywhere two or more believers are gathered)	Spiritual and invisible
Attendees include believers and unbelievers	Only believers are members
Only the living	All those in Christ whether dead or alive
Many expressions	One entity
Assorted denominations	Transcends denominations
A portion of the body of Christ	The entire body of Christ
Assorted types of government	Jesus Christ is the true and only head

*Some derived from Rose Guide To discipleship

Discussion question: does the Church have walls?

Answer: the building may have walls, but the church does not.

1 Corinthians 12:27 “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” (NIV)

B) One Body, Many Parts

Every human has one body that is made up of many parts. Each part has a unique purpose that compliments the purposes of the other parts. For example, the arm’s function is totally different than the legs’ function, but together they help the entire body accomplish the tasks of life. The same is with the church. Every person brings a different element to the body of Christ and when working together, this unity helps accomplish the purposes of God in heaven and on the earth.

Discussion question: is any body part more important than another part?

Answer: every part of the body is equal in importance and significance.



1 Corinthians 12:12-26 *“12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14 Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.*

15 Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

21 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, 25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.”

C) Honor

Romans 12:10 tells us, “Love one another with brotherly affection. **Outdo one another in showing honor.**” (ESV) To honor simply means to recognize the value of someone or something. A few people the Bible teaches us to honor are:

Who to Honor	Scripture
The Lord	1 Corinthians 10:31
Your Neighbor	Mark 12:31
Yourself	Mark 12:31
Your Leaders	Hebrews 13:17
Your Elders	1 Timothy 5:17
Your Government	Romans 13:1

The church is comprised of humans. This means there are bound to be disagreements, hurt feelings, and various other emotional situations. It is in these situations that we must make the choice to honor one another despite what we may feel.

Discussion question: if you have a disagreement, hurt feelings, or offense with someone what is the best way to handle the situation?

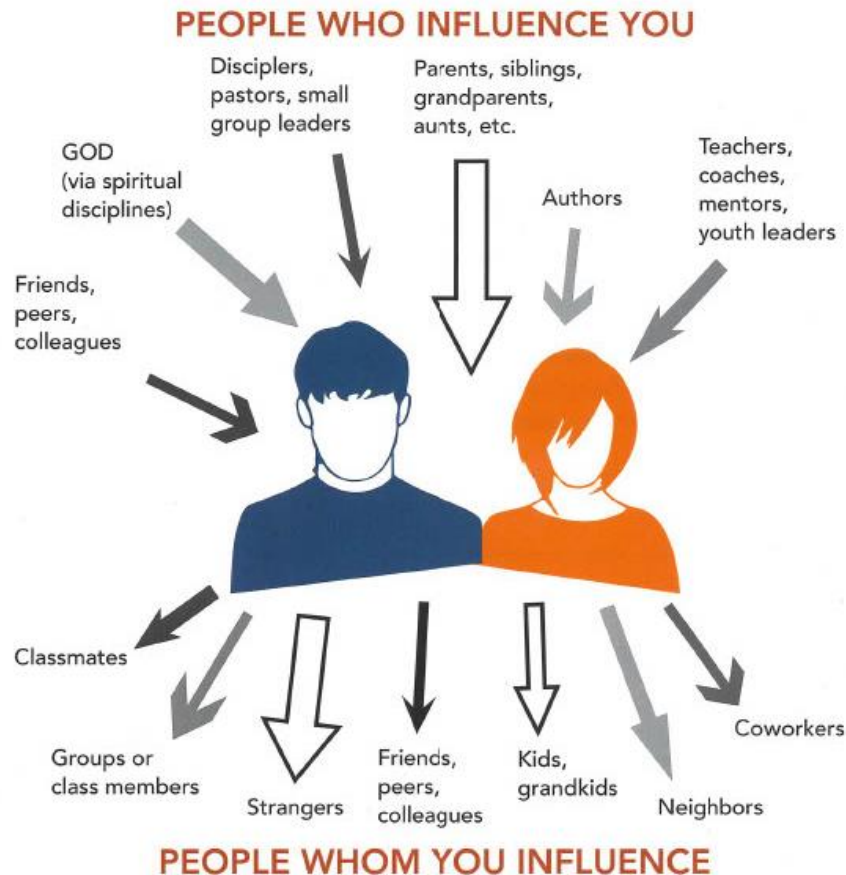
Answer: Matthew 18:15-17

Philippians 2:3 *“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.” (NIV)*

2. COMMUNITY

A) Influence

Being connected to a local church is certainly a two-way street. Every believer should be poured into as well as pouring into others. It should never be just one or the other. See the illustration below:



**Derived from Rose Guide to Discipleship*

B) Cell Group Life

If anyone could have walked through life alone, it would have been Jesus. But He did not. In fact, He surrounded Himself with twelve disciples. You could call this a cell group. Of course, He taught the multitudes in large corporate settings, but He intentionally equipped His disciples separately in a small group setting. After Christ resurrected, the early church continued this model of teaching publicly but preparing disciples in cell group type settings.

World Harvest Church follows this model. We teach publicly (i.e., our weekend celebrations, classes like this one, outdoor events, etc.) and we offer cell groups for every age group.



Here are some cell group examples in Scripture:

Jesus taught disciples about deliverance	Mark 9:27
Jesus explained parables to His disciples	Mark 7:17
The Apostles taught in homes	Acts 5:42
A centurion and his family	Acts 10:22,44-45
Aquila and Priscilla’s church met in a home	1 Corinthians 16:19
The Roman church met in homes	Romans 16:5
Nympha’s church met in her house	Colossians 4:15
The early church went from house to house	Acts 2:46-47

Discussion question: what are some advantages of being a member of a cell group?

Answer: you are more thoroughly equipped for the work of the ministry by being actively disciplined in a way that equips you to prepare other disciples.

Hebrews 10:25 *“And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.”* (NLT)

3. Servanthood

A) Who Serves?

One of the most fulfilling acts a believer can do is serve. This is true within the church itself as well as in the community. If anyone could have been exempt from serving, it would have been Jesus. Instead, He made His mission clear in Mark 10:45, *“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”* (NLT)

Discussion question: what does this verse mean for all believers?

Answer: Jesus is our example. No one is exempt or above serving.

B) Ways to Serve

Servanthood is often a sacrifice of comfort. Jesus demonstrated this powerfully (John 13:1-17). While it is ideal to serve in a capacity that suits our passions and giftings, it is our duty as believers to help meet the needs of the church. This is true even in needs that we are not passionate about or gifted in.

Examine each pair of actions or attitudes in the scale below. Where do you see yourself?

Doing occasional acts of service	or	Having a servant’s heart
Helping when asked	or	Noticing needs and taking the initiative to help
Serving according to what others need	or	Serving according to my gifts and passions
The gift of service (some believers)	or	The command to serve (all believers)
“Out front” visible service	or	“Behind-the-scenes” invisible service

*Some derived from Rose Guide To discipleship



Below is a list of ways anyone can serve. Check all that may apply to you:

- Administration: bringing order to chaos, paying attention to details, etc.
- Children's Ministry: the passion to train children in the ways of the Kingdom of God.
- Compassion: noticing hurting people and moving into their lives to tangibly show the love of Jesus.
- Connection: reaching out to church members to participate in relationships, groups, events, etc.
- Construction: the ability to build, fix, restore important projects for others.
- Counsel: taking the time to listen to the hearts of people and help them process what God is saying.
- Craftiness: the ability to sew, knit, decorate, as a blessing to others.
- Creative: the ability to sing, play an instrument, etc. to bless others and convey the heart of God.
- Encouragement: the ability to breathe life and hope to those who are discouraged.
- Evangelism: the ability to share the good news of Jesus with the lost.
- Giving: cheerfully donating ones time, energy, effort, resources and/or funds to Kingdom efforts.
- Hospitality: taking the initiative to help other be welcomed and accepted.
- Intercession: the consistent habit of praying for others.
- Labor: the willingness to lend a helping hand in a variety of situations.
- Leadership: coming alongside others to pastor them and equip them to walk in Gods purpose.
- Mentorship: helping others develop a particular skill needed for success in a specific area of life.
- Teaching: the ability to practically and effectively communicate Biblical truths to others.
- Technical: the ability to assist in technological efforts of the church i.e., sound, media, production, etc.

4. Gifts of the Spirit

God has given gifts of the Holy Spirit to the church and we are biblically instructed to eagerly desire the gifts. Notice they are called gifts and not rewards or wages. Gifts cannot be earned. We have the legal right according to the Scriptures to ask God for any and every gift (1 Corinthians 14:1). The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 about the gifts of the Spirit:

“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.” (NIV)

1. **Word of Wisdom** – insight and understanding partnered with direction for a particular person and/or situation. (1 Kings 3:16-28)
2. **Word of Knowledge** – having knowledge/understanding about someone or something that you otherwise would not know for a purpose (salvation, healing, etc.). (John 4:16-20)
3. **The Gift of Faith** – having the unshakeable confidence of God regardless of surroundings, thus producing tangible results in impossible situations. (Acts 3:6-9)



4. **The Gift of Healing** - ability to administer God's healing power to cure a person who is ill, wounded or suffering. (Acts 28:8-9)
5. **The Gift of Miracles** – ability to display miracles, signs, and wonders that give glory to God. Miracles, when in the realm of healing, defy physics, anatomy, etc. (Acts 6:8)
6. **The Gift of Prophecy** – ability to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit and speak to an assembled group of believers, but also to individuals. Its three main purposes are: to edify, exhort, and comfort. This gift also enables a person to understand what will happen in the future. (Acts 11:28)
7. **Discerning of Spirits** – ability to discern between demonic spirits. (Acts 8:20-23)
8. **The Gift of Different Kinds of Tongues** - the ability to operate in one or more of four types of tongues mentioned in the New Testament. Two types are public and two are private.

Public Tongues

- a. Tongues as a sign to the unbeliever. (1 Corinthians 14:22, Acts 2)
- b. Tongues for interpretation. (1 Corinthians 14:5)

Private Tongues

- c. Tongues for intercession while in distress. (Romans 8:26-28)
 - d. Tongues for personal prayer. (1 Corinthians 14:4,14-15, Jude 20)
9. **Interpretation of Tongues** - the gift to interpret a public tongue that is given (see 8.b.). (Acts 2:4-13)



Fundamentals - Class 4

The Church – QUIZ

Directions: Answer the following multiple-choice questions using your notes and Bible.

1. **How many walls does a healthy church have?**
 - a. 4
 - b. 0
 - c. 6

2. **True or False: Some people in the body of Christ are more important than others.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

3. **Which of the following is worthy of honor? *Circle all that apply.***
 - a. The Lord
 - b. My neighbor
 - c. Myself
 - d. My leaders
 - e. My elders
 - f. My government

4. **Which of the following best describes the advantage of being involved in a cell group?**
 - a. The snacks are usually great
 - b. It's a great opportunity to talk about myself
 - c. It's the best avenue to be prepared and equipped as a disciple of Christ

5. **Which is the primary qualification for someone to serve the church?**
 - a. A servant's heart
 - b. At least eighteen years old
 - c. Has been saved for at least five years

6. **Which of the following is *not* a gift of the Spirit?**
 - a. Word of wisdom
 - b. Word of criticism
 - c. Word of knowledge

7. **Which gifts of the Spirit can you desire?**
 - a. A maximum of three
 - b. All of them
 - c. None, what you get is what you get