

# THE CHURCH, GOD'S SPIRITUAL TEMPLE

## LIVING STONES SERIES

### 1 PETER 2:4-5

*4 You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor. 5 And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God.*

**JESUS IS THE HOPE OF THE WORLD. BUT, THE CHURCH IS ON MISSION WITH HIM.**

*Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. **MATTHEW 16:18***

### WHO IS THE CHURCH?

#### THE CHURCH

We believe that the church, which is the body and espoused bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons (Eph. 1:22, 23; 5:25-27; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 11:2). We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:27, 18:22, 20:17; 1 Tim. 3:1-3; Titus 1:5-11). We recognize believer's baptism and the Lord's supper as scriptural means of testimony for the church (Matt. 28:19, 20; Acts 2:41, 42; 18:8; 1 Cor. 11:23-26).

## THE Church and our church

**Our church is a subset of THE Church. We have a unique role in the Body of Christ.**

**We can be a part of this church and NOT belong to THE Church.**

**Some think we can be a part of THE Church but not be a part of a church. This is wrong thinking.**

*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. **HEBREWS 10:25***

**Jesus went on mission for us. He sends us in community on mission for others.**

**The mission of the church has a shelf life. We should work and worship while it is still day because night is coming.**