

Renewed Unity The Church

Church is far more controversial in many people's minds than it ought to be. Church is glorious. Church is the assembly of believers. Yet, some folks don't like church. Some people seem to enjoy complaining more about what church does or does not do than actually participating with fellow believers in the corporate communion of the saints and worship of God. Some folks think they can abide in Jesus and yet abandon His church. Some folks have been hurt by churches in the past and are reticent to continue assembling together. It is true that the church is comprised of human beings so the church is not immune to the faults common to human beings. Even so, the church has a divine calling.

Topic: The church is household of God (1 Timothy 2:15), the bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:25-32), the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13, 27).

- How confident are you in badmouthing the household, bride, and body of someone you love?
- Why do you suppose that some are confident in badmouthing the church?
- The Spirit gifts believers differently (1 Corinthians 12:4-11). Why aren't some people given all the gifts?
- What should the leadership structure of the church look like? A pope? A Bishop over many churches? A plurality of local elders/pastors/overseers? Read Acts 14:23, 15:1-29, 20:17-28.
- What is the mission of the church? (Read Matthew 28:18-20).
- Do all true church agree on the Essential Christian Doctrines? (The 10 ECD are: The Nature of God, Creation by God, Christology, Atonement, Resurrection, Holy Spirit, Judgment, Salvation, Church, Bible).
- What do we do if another church agrees to the 10 ECD, but holds to additional believers as well?
- How do we draw the line whether or not a congregation is part of the universal church or a cult?

Association:

- What kinds of church did you grow up in?
- What sorts of churches have you attended?
- Do you associate with members of the Catholics, Orthodox, other Protestant denominations?
- What issues that are important, but not among the Essential Christian Doctrines, do you see other congregations of Christians dividing over?
- What are your spiritual gifts?
- What are your favorite aspects of GCC?
- What aspects do you think GCC can improve?
- How are you involved here at GCC?
- How central is church to your family's weekly life?
- Are you familiar with the expectations of GCC? As a member you can expect to be 1) Cared for, 2) Prayed for, 3) Protected from false doctrine, 4) Provided discipleship opportunities. As members of GCC you are expected to 1) Attend regularly, 2) Be involved in some capacity, 3) Give generously, 4) Submit to the Elders, 5) Promote unity rather than disunity.
- Are you living up to the expectations? Is the church?

Guidance: Help each other live up to the expectations. Pray with and for one another, thanking God for the church.