

CHURCH

New Relationships

“... On this rock I will build my church....”
MATTHEW 16:18

WORDS from the WORD

CHURCH

God's people, not a building

DISCIPLE

*someone who follows Jesus
and helps others follow Him*



What comes to your mind when you think of the word "church"?

Did you know that when you search for images of "church" online, you will see buildings, and not people?

Usually, when you hear the word “church,” you think of a building. But according to Jesus, church means God’s people, not a place of worship. There are many verses that describe what a church is. Some compare it to the human body.

As parts of Jesus’ body, we have different roles, and each one of us is important.

The church is strong because Jesus built it. In fact, Jesus told Peter He would build a victorious church that would win over the kingdom of darkness.

Colossians 1:18

And he is the head of the body, which is the church. . . .

1 Corinthians 12:27 (ERV)

All of you together are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of that body.

1 Corinthians 12:17-19 (ERV)

¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, how could it hear? If the whole body were an ear, how could it smell? ¹⁸God has placed each part in the body just as he wanted it to be. ¹⁹If all the parts were the same, how could there be a body?

Matthew 16:18

“ . . . The gates of hell will not be strong enough to destroy it.”

The 4 Benefits of Being Part of a Church

1

Having Real Friends

Real friends. Everyone needs them. The best place to look for a real friend is in church—with the people of God. True friends stay with us through the good and bad times. They never pull us away from God; instead, they bring us closer to Him.

Proverbs 17:17

A friend loves at all times. They are there to help when trouble comes.

2

Sharing Life

Sharing life is important as we grow stronger in our relationship with God. That means spending time and doing things together with His people so we can know Him better. We are like pieces of burning coal, and our fire grows stronger because we are together. If a piece of burning coal is removed from the pile, it will cool off. If it is put back in the middle of a pile of red-hot coals, it will burn again. In the same way, we grow in our love for God as we stay and grow together.

Acts 2:42

The believers studied what the apostles taught. They shared their lives together. They ate and prayed together.

Remember

As God's people, we grow together in Him.

3

Worship

We are all created to worship God. He is looking for people who worship Him with all their hearts. As a church, this is something we do together. We praise Him because He is awesome, great, and deserving of all the honor and love that we can give, and more.

John 4:23

“But a new time is coming. In fact, it is already here. True worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth. They are the kind of worshipers the Father is looking for.”

4

Helping Others Follow Jesus

The last command Jesus gave His followers before He went to heaven was to go and make disciples, to baptize them, and to teach them to obey God's word. A disciple is someone who follows Jesus and helps others follow Him.

Matthew 28:19,20

¹⁹“So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. ²⁰Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end.”

THE IMAGES OF THE CHURCH



Family
(Hebrews 2:11)



Body
(1 Corinthians 12:12)



Temple
(1 Corinthians 3:16)



Bride
(Isaiah 62:5)



Lampstand
(Revelation 1:20)

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- Do you have strong friendships with people in church who help you follow Jesus? Who are they?
- Are you helping someone follow Jesus? Who?