

Group Chat

SUMMARY

The Nature of the Church

The church is not merely a place Christians go or an organization that supports their individual relationships with God. Christ saves a people and joins them to himself and to one another. The church is his body, his people, and his holy temple. Understanding what the church truly is should reshape how we see other Christians, how we build lives together, and what we expect God to accomplish through our relationships with one another.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read 1 Corinthians 12:21-27. Paul says that Christians *are* the body of Christ and individually members of it.

How well does that picture match your actual experience of church? When have you experienced another Christian's presence, gifts, encouragement, correction, care, or suffering as something that genuinely affected your own life with Christ?

2. Read Colossians 3:12-15. Notice how many of these commands only become necessary because Christians are living closely enough to inconvenience, disappoint, offend, and sin against one another.

What kinds of differences, weaknesses, or frustrations in other Christians are hardest for you to absorb? How has life with imperfect Christians actually trained you to become more compassionate, humble, patient, forgiving, or loving?

3. Read 1 Peter 2:9-12. What would it mean for an entire Christian community to be recognizably holy? Where have you personally seen the shared life of a church make the character and ways of Jesus more believable or attractive?

