

Essentials: Growing in Christ in the Church Part 1 | June 7, 2020

Introduction: This week's message seeks to answer the question, "Now that I'm a follower of Jesus, what should I do?" Our study provides the first two (of eight) answers to that question:

1. Get Baptized (Acts 2)
2. Join a Local Church (2 Cor. 12, Eph. 4)

In general, this sermon series may seem a bit like returning to elementary school, as we consider foundational spiritual disciplines in each message. What may feel new is an emphasis on applying each basic principle in the context of the local church. In short, we hope to convince you that God intends for the Christian life to be lived within the community of a local church.

Up for Discussion:

1. This first message seeks to make the case from Scripture that every person who becomes a follower of Christ should get baptized. Do you agree that all believers should be baptized? Explain your answer.

2. Based on passages such as, 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4, we teach that God intends for every follower of Christ should identify with a local church by becoming a member. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?

3. What holds a person back from getting baptized after he or she has become a follower of Christ? What Scripture might you use to encourage someone to get baptized?

4. What are some common reasons people give for not joining a local church? What does the Bible have to say about people formally joining or covenanting with a local assembly of believers?

5. Read 1 Corinthians 12: 21-26. In this hypothetical conversation, what is the problem with what the eye and the head say to the rest of the body? What truths about a local church do you discover in these verses?

6. Read Ephesians 4:15b-16. In this text, who builds up the body (i.e., the church) and how is the “building up” accomplished?