

WHY CHURCH?

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We serve a great God and one of the greatest things He has given us on earth, apart from Jesus dying for our sins is the institution of the church which we use to preach Christ and establish a gateway to God.

Definition

The Greek word for church is **ekklesia** - A gathering of citizens called out from their homes into some public place, an assembly.

This is an assembly of _____ gathered for worship in a _____ meeting.

The local church is an _____ of change. There is no _____ for church and it is very important to building up believers which is core to our beliefs.

We live in a fast-paced world that aims to get things done instantly and the problem is that we then become frustrated when we go through the church process which is vital to our Christian growth.

As people of God we should examine our _____ and _____ as we invest a lot time into church. Our attitude towards church will depend on our relationship with Jesus.

Why Is Church Important?

The church is an institution established by God _____ change in our local area's which in turn will affect the province, the city and the nation we live in.

"Not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25, NIV)

The Bible would not encourage us to invest in something that is fruitless. We are to encourage one another in the things of the Lord.

"And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." (Matthew 16:18-19, NIV)

The Church represents _____.

"His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence." (Ephesians 3:10-12, NIV)

The Church Is Family

"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of His household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone. In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit." (Ephesians 2:19-21, NIV)

Church is established to bring Godly _____ to the world, that change starts with the believers in the house of God then to the people around us.

The Pulse

"Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, 'I find no pleasure in them.'" (Ecclesiastes 12:1-2, NIV)

The pulse was a source of _____ and _____. The bible says keep doing good and in due season you will reap a reward.

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"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:12-13, NIV)

Pastors and The Leadership Team

I have just touched on a few groups that have impacted on my life and I am sure you can think of your own experiences in groups relevant to where you are in life. However, the way you will interact with them will depend also on how you view the leaders who run them and ultimately the Pastors who are the highest authority in this church.

"Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God." (Romans 13:1, NIV)

God has set the leaders in place for this _____ and _____. As a people we should honour and respect our leaders.

"Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other." (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, NIV)

A few points on the Leadership

Our leaders are not _____, as people we understand this in our minds but when it comes to the revelation of this it is a different case. The bible states that leadership is a gift of from God.

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us... if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully." (Romans 12:6-8, NIV)

Leadership is not based on a person's degree of _____. If it was, would it still be a gifting from God?

I believe we have world class leaders in this church, leaders dedicated to seeing us grow and develop into the people God wants us to be. It is really up to us to determine how much we give in terms of honesty, dedication and accountability.

"Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you." (Hebrews 13:17, NIV)

The Church is the Bride of Christ and it is the plan of God, the Church will never fail, the Church will be a strong victorious place, where all peoples, from different background and cultures, find a place in God's Kingdom. Our destinies and purpose will be unfolded; lives will be restored through the vehicle of the local church.

"Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts." (Colossians 3:16, NIV)

Let us build church!