

Alpha Questions

Week 8, Session 15

“What About the Church?”

If there is a misunderstanding among our guests, the subject of the church is probably one of the most, if not the most misunderstood. The reason is because when we discuss prayer, the Bible, and Satan, those are things the common religious person is aware of but not spending their time thinking about or doing anything about. But people attend a religious meeting and call it church. Was what they attended church or not? It depends from where we want to glean our definition.

1. Before tonight’s message, how would you have defined the church?
2. Why do you go to church? Or, if before you were in Christ, why DID you go?
3. What questions, comments observations or revelations do you have as a result of tonight’s presentation about the church?
4. For the past four weeks we have talked about stereotypes of the Bible, prayer and the devil. What stereotypes of church have you carried that were possibly dispelled tonight?
5. Had you ever considered the church as God defines it having secondarily (at best) to do with being identified with brick and mortar? If so, what then or who then IS the church? Is that a new thought?
6. Traditionally, what have been your reasons for attending church services?
7. Does the term “The Body of Christ” have a different meaning to you after tonight’s talk? Why? Why not?
8. In 1 Peter 2, Peter calls the church living stones. What do you think he means by that?

What does that mean to you? The meaning of the words “Generation, Priesthood, Nation” are startling. How does that make you feel that this is the identity of one who has received the gift of Jesus Christ?

9. How do you feel about this statement, “The church is composed of a body of believers (committed, surrendered to Christ, in Christ) that assembles together at any time in small and large groups, in an auditorium, sanctuary, person’s home, a park, etc. to minister to God by worshiping Him (You may have to define worship here as not being singing or a church service alone) and ministering God’s love to one another.”?
10. How do you feel about the definition of the church being a place where you are to receive feeding, leadership and protection and fellowship (a sense of belonging)?
11. How could or should the fact that the Bible says that the believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God and has, as 1 Corinthians 6:19 says, become the temple (dwelling place) of the Holy Spirit, effect the way we live as it pertains to God’s definition of church?