

**Let's Talk Church:
Why you absolutely need a church family**

Louis Du Piesanie 7/04/2019

1. WHAT IS CHURCH?

- 1.1. Church is not a building or an institution or an event to attend. Church is a spiritual family that you belong to.
- 1.2. A CHURCH is a group of baptized believers who've joined together in a commitment to help each other fulfill God's five purposes for their lives.

Acts 2:41-42, 46 (NLT/LB) "Those who BELIEVED...were BAPTIZED and ADDED to the church...They JOINED with the other believers and COMMITTED THEMSELVES to the apostles' teaching, and to the fellowship... They worshiped together regularly at the Temple courts and met in small groups in homes for communion, and shared meals with great joy and thankfulness."

2. WHY IS THE CHURCH THE MOST IMPORTANT GROUP ON EARTH?

- 2.1. The Church is God's family.

1 Peter 1:3 "God has given us the privilege of being born again so that we are now MEMBERS of GOD'S OWN FAMILY."

1 Timothy 3:15 (NCV) "That family is the church of the living God, the support and foundation of the truth."

- 2.2. The Church is the reason God created the universe.

Ephesians 1:4 (LB) "Long ago, even before he made the world, God chose us to be his very own through what Christ would do for us."

Ephesians 1:5 (NLT) "His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave him great pleasure."

- 2.3. The Church is God's agent on earth for His purposes.

Ephesians 3:10-11 "God's intent was that now, THROUGH THE CHURCH, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to all the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Ephesians 3:10 (MSG) “Through Christians like yourselves gathered in churches, this extraordinary plan of God is becoming known and talked about even among the angels!”

2.4. Jesus died for His Church.

Ephesians 5:25, 27 (NCV) “Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it... he died so that he could give the church to Himself like a bride in all her beauty. he died so that the church could be pure and without fault...”

2.5. Only the Church will last forever.

Ephesians 3:21 (GW) “Glory will belong to God in his church and in Christ Jesus for all time and eternity!”

1 Thessalonians 4:17 “...we will be with the Lord together forever!”

2.6. Only the Church will ultimately win against evil.

Matthew 16:18 (NLT) Jesus: “I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it!”

2.7. Only the Church is big enough to solve global problems.

Ephesians 3:20 (NLT) “By his mighty power at work within us, God is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope!”

2.8. Belonging to God’s Church is the greatest privilege.

1 Peter 1:3 “God has given us the privilege of being born again so that we are now members of God’s own family.”

1 Corinthians 3:16 “Don't you realize that ALL OF YOU TOGETHER are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?”

Sermon Discussion Guide:

OPEN YOUR GROUP WITH A PRAYER. THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE – SELECT THE POINTS YOU WANT TO DISCUSS.

1. Why do YOU go to church?
2. Do you experience Church as a building you go to or an event you attend, or do you really experience it as a spiritual family?
3. Do you feel that it is important to have a spiritual family? If yes, why is it important to you?
4. Do you still feel that being part of a church is a privilege or has it become just another thing that you do?