

## **Be the Church Week 1 - What is the Church?**

**Main Point** - “The church is the body of people called by God’s grace through faith in Christ to glorify Him together by serving Him in His world.” - Mark Dever

### ***Intro Question 1 - What is the Church?***

We are going to spend the next several weeks talking about what the Church is, what the Church does, and why we believe what we believe. We are going to talk about some things that make us distinct as Baptists and we are going to talk about what we should pay attention to when looking for a church.

### ***Question 1 - Why do you come to church? Can someone go to church on their couch?***

The Bible urges us to gather as believers. We should gather to build one another up and glorify God together. As a body of believers we strengthen one another for the work God has given us. While watching “church” from home is convenient when someone is sick or unable to attend, church is about gathering, not watching. Church is not just an experience to be received. It is an opportunity to serve and to be served for the glory of God. That is best done when we are together.

### ***Question 2 - What does it take to be part of the church?***

A church is a gathering of believers. While non-believers are welcome to visit our gathering, the church itself is made up of those who are following Jesus and have been saved by Him. To join the church someone must profess faith in Jesus and identify with Him in baptism.

### ***Question 3 - What responsibilities and benefits come from being part of the Body of Christ?***

As a part of the body, we have the responsibility of serving the rest of the body. Each part of the body has a role to play in the function of the body. If you neglect your role, the rest of the body will suffer from that. At the same time, you don’t have to do everything. Each part of the body benefits from the help of the rest of the body. The hand doesn’t have to try to see or chew. The mouth doesn’t have to walk or hear. We can rest in the role God has given us knowing that we have brothers and sisters around us who have been gifted for our good.

### ***Question 4 - How does thinking about the church as the Bride of Christ change the way you think about the other people in your church?***

While people can be frustrating, and sometimes it is difficult to love others, remembering that Christ loved His church and gave Himself up for her reminds us of the value and beauty of the church. If we see people only as flawed problems then our love will fall short. But if we remember that they make up the bride that Christ adores, it will lead us to love and cherish others.