



**THE CHURCH: YOUR ROLE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST AND ITS MISSION**

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# The Church: Your Role in the Body of Christ and Its Mission

## Key Terms:

- **Church:** Called out ones: Assembly or gathering
- **Ministry:** A servant of the word, administer the word, Aid other with the word
- **Glorify:** Giving Him all the honor and praise for all things by magnifying Him and giving Him all the praise and credit.
- **Perfecting:** Repair, mend, and restore people through preaching and proclaiming truth.
- **Preach:** A public crier, especially divine truth (the gospel):- proclaim, publish.
- **Fellowship:** Partnership; participation:--(to) communicate, communion.
- **Exhorting:** To call near, i.e. invite, invoke:--beseech, call for, (be of good) comfort, desire, (give) exhort(-ation), intreat, pray.

*1 Corinthians 12:12* “For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.”

## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CHURCH

God has created and ordained the church, a fellowship of flawed people, to carry out His purpose in the world. When we consider the biblical teaching on the church, we realize the church is vitally important for growing in Christ. It was created to be part of our lives. Church was not created to be an option! Like a branch that grows because of its connection to the tree, we thrive when we stay connected to the church. God works in and through the local church to reach and change the world!

## Questions being answered tonight:

- What is the Church?
- What is the purpose of the church?
- Who is the head of the church?
- What are the leadership roles in the church?
- What does the church do?

## What is the Church?

- Jesus introduced the church to the disciples.
- The Church is God’s army to push back Satan’s kingdom.

***Matthew 16:18*** “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; ***and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.***”

- Gates represents a kingdom.

- Two kingdoms:
  - kingdom of Satan
  - Kingdom of God

**Matthew 6:33** “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

- We represent the Kingdom of God
- Jesus is the KING of the Kingdom
- We stand against the Kingdom of Satan

**Matthew 16:18** “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

### God has a plan to fight against Satan’s kingdom – THE CHURCH!

#### The Church is God’s People called out and gathered together for His purpose

**Matthew 16:18a** “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church.”

- CHURCH = (Greek) ekklesia
- Ek – Out
- Klesia – Called
- **Church = Called out ones: Assembly or gathering**

#### CHURCH: It is not a place.

- Ekklesia was never referred to a specific place

#### CHURCH: It is not a person

- The church is a collection of God’s people.
- You were not created to stand alone, walk alone or grow alone!

#### Jesus is the one that builds the church

**Matthew 16:18** “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

- Jesus started with this principle at the beginning of His public ministry when He called the disciples to follow Him
- When Jesus called the disciples to follow Him, He was building His church

**Matthew 4:19** “And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

## When you accept Christ, you are a part of His church

**Acts 2:47** *'Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.'*

- As they were SAVED, they were added to the Ekklesia

What makes the church so strong?

- You can gather people together, but that does not make up a church – that is a crowd
- What makes them powerful is STANDING together on the rock of Jesus Christ

**Matthew 16:18a** *'And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church;'*

Jesus is the ROCK

- What holds us together is Jesus
- What makes us strong is Jesus
- Our foundation is Jesus

**The church is God's people connected together.**

- We are connected through the church

Biblical example:

**We are "living stones" connected together**

**1 Peter 2:4** *"To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, 5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."*

**We are "the body of Christ" connected together**

**Ephesians 4:16** *"From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."*

## What is the Purpose of the Church?

- It is not just to grow
- It is more than worship
- It is more than evangelism

**Ephesians 3:20** *‘Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, 21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.’*

### **The purpose of the church is to glorify God!**

- Glorify: Giving Him all the honor and praise for all things by magnifying Him and giving Him all the praise and credit.
- This is the purpose for all that we do in our lives and in the church.

**1 Corinthians 10:31** *“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”*

- We sing to bring God glory
- We preach to give God glory
- We give to praise God
- We evangelize to share the message of God

## **Who is the Head of the Church?**

**Colossians 1:17** *“And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”*

### **Jesus is the head of the church!!**

- He calls the shots
- We submit to Him
- He holds all the authority

### **Jesus guides and instructs the church in two ways:**

- The Holy Spirit
- The Word of God

## **What are the Leadership Roles in the Church?**

### **Jesus – The Chief Shepherd**

**1 Peter 5:2** *“Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.”*

## Pastor/Elders

**Acts 6:2** “Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. 3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. **4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.**”

- “it is not reason” - it is not proper
- Pastor Priority = The Ministry of the Word

**Ephesians 4:11** “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:”

- These are specific callings – specific roles
- Spiritual gifts

## The Pastor’s Role:

### 1. His role is to Preach and Teach

- Jesus instructed Peter, “Feed my sheep” John 21:16-17
- This was His priority!
- This was His calling
- Paul told Timothy, who was a young pastor:

**2 Timothy 4:2** “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”

- A pastor must study and know the Word if He is going to preach

**2 Timothy 2:15** “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**”

### 2. His role is to Lead

**1 Timothy 3:4** “One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; 5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, **how shall he take care of the church of God?**)”

- This was a comparison: If you can’t lead your family, how can you lead the church

**Acts 6:4** “**But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.**”

- Lord, Help Me!
- Lord, Show us!

### 3. His role is to Train leaders

- Paul trained Timothy to be a preacher:

**1 Timothy 1:2** “Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.”

## The two books that teach us about the specifics of a pastor are 1 Timothy and Titus

- Timothy and Titus were both young preachers being trained by Paul
- Pastors have a calling to train other pastors!

- Timothy continued the work for Paul
- Elisha continued the work of Elijah
- Joshua continued the work for Moses

#### 4. **His Role is the Ministry of the Word**

**Acts 6:4** “But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, **and to the ministry of the word.**”

- Ministry: A servant of the word, administer the word, Aid other with the word
- Pastors minister the Word of God
- Preaching, funerals, weddings and counsel.

#### **Deacons**

**Acts 6:2** “Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. 3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, **whom we may appoint over this business.**”

- Deacons are servants and leaders in the church.

#### **Deacon Responsibilities at FBC**

- Meet and discuss issues of the church
- Help serve Communion
- Care for Widows
- Assist the Pastor

**Proverbs 11:14** “Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.”

## **What Does the Church Do?**

### **Worship - We Worship Together**

Two main things we do in our worship services

- We worship God through music
- We grow through the preaching of God’s Word.

#### 1. **Preaching**

**Ephesians 4:11** “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 **For the perfecting of the saints,** for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:”

- Perfecting: Repair, mend, and restore people through preaching and proclaiming truth

**2 Timothy 4:2** “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”

- As Christians, we prioritize a time to gather together to hear God's Word preached
- **Preach - (as a public crier), especially divine truth (the gospel):- proclaim, publish.**
- God works through preaching!

**1 Corinthians 2:4** "And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: 5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."

**Romans 10:17** "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

## 2. Worship with Music

- We encourage each other through corporate worship.

**Psalms 149:1** "Praise ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints."

- What did He instruct us to do in the congregation? Sing together and Praise God!

**Psalms 98:4** "Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise."

- We praise because we have something to rejoice about!
- We celebrate together
- We sing His praises together

**Psalms 32:11** "Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart."

## Fellowship - We share life together

**Acts 2:42** "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."

- Fellowship - partnership, i.e. (literally) participation:--(to) communicate(-ation), communion
- We share life together!
- We walk through life together!
- **Fellowship simply means that we live out the Christian life together**

**Ephesians 4:16** From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

- "Fitly joined together" - Connected!
- Don't live disconnected
- Fellowship is sharing a meal together, praying together, helping each other in problems and serving together!
- Fellowship means we go out of our way to be part of other people's lives
- Fellowship is how we make friends
- **Our example: Jesus**



Jesus walked and shared life with the disciples

**John 15:15** *“Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.”*

**Proverbs 18:24** *“A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.”*

## Discipleship - We grow together

- **Jesus not only preached, but He trained and taught His disciples**
- He created a discipleship group
- We help each other grow by teaching each other

**Hebrews 10:24** *“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”*

- **Discipleship is helping others grow in their faith.**
- “one another” – it is what we all do!
- **Discipleship is more than teaching people about salvation, it is teaching them how to face life.**
- **Discipleship is investing in others by helping them get closer to God**
- Exhorting - to call near, i.e. invite, invoke:--beseech, call for, (be of good) comfort, desire, (give) exhort(-ation), intreat, pray.
- **Discipleship is taking what I know as teaching it to others**

**Ephesians 4:16** *“From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted **by that which every joint supplieth**, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”*

## Ministry - We serve together

**Ephesians 4:12** *“For the perfecting of the saints, **for the work of the ministry**, for the edifying of the body of Christ:”*

- Serving in ministry is part of being a Christian
- There is work to be done as the church
- Ministry takes work and we, as a church family, do the work of ministry!
- We serve the Lord, and we serve each other

## Examples

- We sing in the choir to minister to those in attendance.
- We serve in the nursery, so parents can attend the service.
- We serve as greeters to our guests, and the church family feels welcomed.
- We serve on the safety team, so our church can be a safe place.
- We serve in the kitchen to meet needs.
- We serve by cutting the grass to take care of what God has given us.

## Serving in ministry is how we use our spiritual gifts

**Ephesians 4:7** “But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. 8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.”

- God equips us to do the Work
- Each of us have spiritual gifts given to us by God

## We hurt the ministries of the church when we don't serve

- If you are here, God has you here for a reason
- You are part of the body of Christ, every part has a purpose

**Ephesians 4:16** “From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”

- Are you serving the Lord with your abilities?
- Are you an active part of the body of Christ?

## Mission and Evangelism – We reach the lost together

**Mark 16:15** “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”

- “Go” is an action
- “Go” is a command
- “Go” implies a mission
- **We go together on a mission as a church**

**Acts 1:8** “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

- We are to reach our city (Jerusalem). We are to reach our country (in all Judea). We are to reach the world (the uttermost part of the earth).

# Conclusion

- **We are victorious as the church!**

**Matthew 16:18** “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

**Together, we are the victorious army of God!**

- Together, we will raise kids
- Together, we will impact our city
- Together, we will impact our world

**Hebrews 10:25** *“Not forsaking the **assembling** of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: **and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.**”*

## Group Discussion Questions

As a group, read the following questions and discuss. Be sure to give everyone an opportunity to answer.

- Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 and answer the following questions.
  1. What does the analogy of the church as a body teach us about how the church is supposed to look and function?
  2. In verse 25, what does the word “schism” mean?
- What verse mentioned tonight was the most helpful for you? Was there anything that stood out to you to be encouraging, eye-opening, or helpful?
- How can the group pray for you?