



# The Church

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What four key truths about Christians are listed in Ephesians 2:19?

*"...You are a member of God's very own family...and you belong in God's household with every other Christian." (Ephesians 2:19, LB)*

How is the church a family?

To what are Christians a member?

When the Bible uses the term "church," to what is it referring?

Do all people who trust in Jesus as their Savior and Lord become members of a church?

Is it necessary for a Christian to associate him or herself with a local body of believers?

Why do you think some people float around from church to church?

What's the difference between being a Christian and being a member of a church family?

## The Purpose of the Church...

The Great Commandment is:

*Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart...soul...and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:36-40 – NIV)*

The Great Commission is:

*Jesus said, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20 – NIV)*

### 1. Worship:

*"Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only." (Matthew 4:10 – NIV)*

What does it mean to worship God?

What kind of worshipers does God want us to be?

*"...The Father seeks worshipers...and His worshippers must worship Him in spirit and in truth." (John 4:23-24 – NIV)*

What are some ways we may express our worship of God?

### 2. Ministry:

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. (1 Peter 4:10 – NIV)*

What is ministry?

What do the following Scripture passages have to say about why the church should be engaged in ministry?

*"By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:35 – NIV)*

*Now God gives us many kinds of special abilities.. and there are different kinds of service to God (ministry)... All of you together form the one Body of Christ and each of you is a separate and necessary part of it. (1 Corinthians 12:4-5, 27 – LB)*

*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood ...*

*[God] has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father...*

*(1 Peter 2:9 and Revelation 1:6 – NIV)*

### 3. Evangelism:

*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..*

*(Ephesians 3:10 – NIV)*

Can God save people without using the church?

#### Why must the Church never stop growing?

*The Lord...is patient, **not wanting anyone to perish**, but wants everyone to come to repentance.*  
(2 Peter 3:9 – NIV)

#### Why else must the Church never stop growing?

*“Go out into the country...and urge anyone you find to come in, **so that My House will be full.**”*  
(Luke 14:23 – LB)

#### Why else must the Church never stop growing?

*“Under Christ’s control, the whole Body is nourished...and grows as **God wants it to grow.**”*  
(Colossians 2:19 – GN)

#### What is the individual Christian’s responsibility to evangelism?

*Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. (Colossians 4:5 – NIV)*

#### How should individual Christians engage in personal evangelism?

*But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. (1 Peter 3:15 – NIV)*

#### 4. Fellowship:

*so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. (Romans 12:5 – NIV)*

#### What is fellowship?

*They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (Acts 2:42 – NIV)*

#### How do we have fellowship?

1 John 1:1-3 - <sup>1</sup>*That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. <sup>2</sup>The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. <sup>3</sup>We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. (NIV)*

#### 5. Discipleship:

*Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus (Philippians 2:5 – NIV)*

#### How may we have the mind of Christ?

#### What is the responsibility of the church for discipleship?

*“(God has given)...some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of ministry, so that the Body of Christ may be built up until we all...become mature...like Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11-13 – LB)*

### The Lord's Supper...

#### What do the following Scripture passages have to say about the Lord's Supper?

*“The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread...” (1 Corinthians 11: 23 – LB)*

*“...and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you; eat it in remembrance of me.’” (1 Corinthians 11: 24 – LB)*

*“In the same way, He took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood; drink it to remember me.’” (1 Corinthians 11: 25 – LB)*

*“For whenever you eat the bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes back.” (1 Corinthians 11: 26 – LB)*

#### Who should take the Lord's Supper?

*“For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment upon himself.” (2 Corinthians 11:29 – LB)*

#### How should Christians prepare themselves for the Lord's Supper?

*“Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A person ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.” (1 Corinthians 11:27-28 – LB)*

#### When and how often should we observe the Lord's Supper?