



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Lesson 3**

#### Fellowship with Other Believers Choosing a Church

When we receive Christ and become born again, we become part of His church. We are not part of a building but rather part of a body of believers.

In Ephesians 4:4 and Romans 12:5 we learn that although we are many who received Christ we are \_\_\_\_\_ body.

According to Colossians 1:18 and Ephesians 1:22-23 who is the head of the body and what is the body?

---

Read Hebrews 10:25. What does this verse mean and do you need to find a local group of believers (a church) to meet with?

---

---

(There are some parts of the world where churches are hard to find, or it is illegal to have a church. In those areas we advise that you do the best you can to meet with other Christians. It will be a help to you.)

One of the reasons we are encouraged to go to church is because we are to help and be a blessing to one another. Read the following verses and fill in the blank with what the verse is telling us to do.

1 Thessalonians 4:18

---

James 5:16

---

Galatians 6:1-2

---

---

Hebrews 10:24

---

Colossians 3:16

---

1 John 4:7

---

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27.

There are several important things we learn from this passage of scripture. The body of Christ is compared to our physical bodies. Our hands, feet, eyes and ears each have their own place and function in our physical bodies. It is the same with the body of Christ; each

member has a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_.

Who is it that decides where each member is placed?

---

Is any member more important than the others?

---

We all n\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ each other and should c\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ for one another. You are a very important member of the body of Christ. Going to a good church will help discover and fulfill your part of His body.

Now that we have established the fact that we need to find a church, how do we choose which one to go to?

There are many churches throughout the world. As each church is lead by a different pastor/leader and is made up of different people it is no surprise that each church is different having its own "personality." There is a church where you will be able to learn, grow, and use your gifts.

The best way to begin your search for a home church is to start visiting various churches in your area. As you visit there are certain things to look for. The last part of this lesson will cover those things.

In 2 Timothy 4:2, Timothy who is a minister, is encouraged to preach:

- a. the latest thought that is going around.
- b. the messages that his mentor, Paul, taught him.
- c. the word of God, which is the Bible.
- d. his own ideas about Christianity.

According to 1 Corinthians 14:40 how should a church service be conducted?

---

One sign of a good church can be found in John 13:35, what is it?

---

So, some of the things you should look for in a church is that they teach the Bible (salvation, etc.), that things are done with order and that the love of God is exhibited through the people that are a part of that church.

The leadership of a church is very important, and the Bible speaks of specific characteristics that the leadership should have.

Read 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:4-9. There are many qualifications of a leader listed in these verses. List some of them below.

---

---

---

---

---

In 1 Peter 5:1-4 gives us a job description of a church leader. What is his/her job and how should he/she lead?

---

---

---

Read Ephesians 4:11-12. There are 5 ministerial gifts that God has placed in the church. List them below.

---

---

For what reason has God placed these gifts in the church?

---

---

---

As we studied earlier, we are to be a help and encourage each other in church and the leadership is to do the same for those who are under their care. The messages that are shared from the pulpit should be instructive and helpful for Christian growth. There may be times that others will see things in our lives that need to be corrected. This should be done in love, not in a shaming way before others, and should not be a regular practice.

There are leaders and churches that do not have the heart of God. In Hebrews 13:17 we are told to obey and submit to the leaders over us and that the leaders must:

---

We want to provide you with a list of things to watch out for, that are evidences of bad leadership.

1. The claim of direct authority from God, rather than testing things by the Word. Many today have set "personal" revelation and experience above the final authority of God's Word. When this occurs, there is no longer any basis for ascertaining the will of God, as one would not be able to discern truth from error because the standard is "personal" rather than the Word of God.
2. The command is to "submit to me," rather than "I will serve you."
3. The method of leadership is to "order" people around, rather than to appeal for them to do the right things.
4. There is a dominating, "pushy" drive instead of a dependence on God to direct.
5. There is a sense of control, rather than a sense of support.
6. A gift is exploited so that others are made to feel dependent on it.
7. There is inflexibility - "don't question me" - "don't touch the Lord's anointed."
8. There is unapproachability and intimidation - the "aura" around the leader keeps the followers in "awe."
9. There emerges an organization built around a man and his peculiar emphases instead of around Christ and His Word.
10. There will be cyclical challenges to the authority figure (which are immediately and forcefully purged).
11. There is more concern for maintaining the authoritarian structure than there is for caring about the people in it.

This list is not meant to scare you away from church but is a warning. There are leaders and churches that are good; that will help you grow in your faith and give you a place to use your gifts.

In Jeremiah 3:15 God tells his people that He will give them what kind of pastor?

---

The word pastor comes from the word shepherd. Who is the good shepherd according to John 10:10-15 and what does he do?

---

---

A pastor is human and will not be perfect, but he/she should exhibit the heart of God.

We encourage you to begin visiting churches to find where you belong and commit to being a part that church.

