



AMAZING GRACE
—CHRISTIAN CHURCH—

SUNDAY WORSHIP 9 & 11AM
BIBLE STUDY/MEAL WED 5PM
CELEBRATE RECOVERY TUE 6PM
ROMANS 6:23

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The Church

1. The Bible speaks frequently, and in glowing terms, of the church. Kingdom of God, Bride of Christ, New Jerusalem-these are some of the names given to the church. **What is the church?**

The Bible Says:

Romans 12	05	So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.
Acts 5	14	Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.

From this we Learn:

- (A) The church is people-all people who believe in Christ as their Savior and Lord.
- (B) **The church is the intimate union of all people who believe in Christ.** The Holy Spirit converts people one by one. But He doesn't let them remain alone detached. By bringing them to faith in Christ, He makes them members of Christ and fellow members of all believers in Christ. **Thus, the church is one body, one family, one fellowship: the communion of saints.**

2. The Bible also speaks of the local churches, or congregations. **How do these serve the building of the church?**

The Bible Says:

Mark 16	15	He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.
1 Cor. 4	15	Even if you had ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.
Col. 1	28	He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.

From this we Learn: **The Great Commission:**

- (A) **Matthew 28:19-20** Therefore, 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. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Great Commandment

- (B) **John 13:34-35** "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

(Christian congregations, strictly speaking, consist of believers in Christ, and believers only. People who pretend to believe in Christ, and who outwardly unite with a Christian congregation, are not really members of the congregation-they merely mingle with it as the weeds do with the wheat.)

Matthew 13:24-30

The Parable of the Weeds

²⁴ Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶ When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. ²⁷ "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' ²⁸ "'An enemy did this,' he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' ²⁹ "'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"

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3. Through whom is the Christian congregation equipped to serve Jesus?

The Bible Says:

Ephesians 4	11	So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,
Ephesians 4	12	Even if you had ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.
Ephesians 4	13	until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.
Ephesians 4:	14	Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.
Ephesians 4:	15	Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.
Ephesians 4:	16	From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

From this we Learn :

- (A) The Christian congregation, in accordance with God's will, chooses and calls Christian pastors.
- (B) "The pastors, as servants of Christ and the congregation, equip the saints in the name and place of Christ."

4. Does this mean that the Christian pastor must carry on the work of building the church alone?

The Bible Says:

Ephesians 4	11	So Christ himself gave the apostles , the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,
Ephesians 4	12	Even if you had ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.

From this we Learn :

- (A) God gives the congregation a pastor, or pastors. (Pastor means shepherd.) Christ is the shepherd, pastors are sheep dogs. LOL
- (B) The pastors are to prepare the members for service.

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(This doesn't merely mean that they are to prepare them for the holding of certain church offices and positions (elders, Sunday school teachers, etc.) **It means that pastors are to instruct and train their sheep** in loving all people to Jesus.

- (C) The members, so trained, are to build the body of Christ. The members-not a few, but all, each according to the talents which God has given him. We are to love all people to Jesus in our community!

5. What does God expect of pastors and members as far as the public preaching and teaching in the congregation are concerned?

The Bible Says:

1 Peter. 4	10	Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.,
1 Peter. 4	11	If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.
Jer. 23:28	28	Let the prophet who has a dream recount the dream, but let the one who has my word speak it faithfully. For what has straw to do with grain?" declares the Lord.
Mathew. 28	20	and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

From this we Learn :

- (A) God wants pastors to preach His Word as laid down in the Scriptures-and nothing else.
- (B) God wants members eagerly to hear and accept the Word so preached. At the same time, they are to compare their pastor's sermon with the Scriptures, thereby assuring themselves that they are indeed the Word of God.

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6. What must be our attitude towards congregations and larger church bodies which in some of their teachings depart from the Word of God?

The Bible Says:

- Corinthians 6: 14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?.,
- Corinthians 6: 15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial [Greek Beliar, a variant of Belial].
- Corinthians 6: 16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said:
- “I will live with them
and walk among them,
and I will be their God,
and they will be my people
- [Leviticus 26:12](#); [Jeremiah 32:38](#); [Ezek. 37:27](#)
- Corinthians 6: 17 Therefore, come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.”
- [\[Isaiah 52:11\]](#); [Ezekiel 20:34](#), [Ezekiel 20:41\]](#)
- Corinthians 6: 18 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

From this we Learn: :

- (A) We should happily acknowledge that all churches which **confess the Triune God** {The triune God is a core Christian doctrine stating that one God eternally exists as three distinct, co-equal persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit. They share one divine essence, meaning they are the same in substance, glory, and eternity, while acting in unique relational roles} **and teach the Bible as the inerrant Word of God**, are Christian churches, and that in all such churches true children of God are to be found.
- (B) We dare not be indifferent to any departure from the Word of God. False doctrine offends God and endangers souls.
- (C) We cannot in good conscience join a congregation whose teachings we regard as being different from those of Christ Himself. Nor may a congregation unite with a larger church body unless, on the basis of God's inerrant Word.

7. What must be my main concern as far as church membership is concerned?

The Bible Says:

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2 Corinthians 13	05	Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?
John 8:	31	To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.
John 8:	32	Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”
Acts 2:42:	16	They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.
2 Corinthians 9-	06	Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.
2 Corinthians 9-	07	Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
2 Corinthians 9-	08	And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.
Malachi 3:	07	Ever since the time of your ancestors, you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the Lord Almighty. But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’
Malachi 3	08	“Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ “In tithes and offerings
Malachi 3	09	You are under a curse—your whole nation— because you are robbing me
Malachi 3	10	Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.
Malachi 3	11	I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe, ” says the Lord Almighty.
Malachi 3	12	“Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land, ” says the Lord Almighty.
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Conclusion:

Come, Beloved, if God has given you Jesus Christ, give Him yourself!
You are not your own, you are bought with a price! Why not present

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your bodies as living sacrifices? Don't talk about it, but really do it-live for Him who died for you. Then, in consequence of having already given yourself, give of your substance to God and give freely. Give not the lame and the blind, but give the best of the flock. Let this be a great joy to you-not the payment of a tax, but the tribute of delighted love. Give to God cheerfully, for He loves a cheerful giver.

[\(Charles Spurgeon\)](#)

From This we Learn:

- (A) It must be my highest concern to be and remain a sincere believer in my Savior and thereby a member of the church
- (B) To this end, I should join and strive to be a loyal member of a congregation which in all its teachings adheres to the Word of God.
- (C) We should generously support our church with our **TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE**. We encourage you to experience the joy and spiritual growth of tithing. **A tithe is 10% of time, talent, and treasure.**

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8. Though the ages, the church has been bitterly attacked and persecuted. Even today, its enemies predict its eventual destruction. **What is the future of the church?**

The Bible Says:

Matthew 16	18	And I tell you that you are Peter, [The Greek word for Peter means rock.] and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades [That is, the realm of the dead] will not overcome it,
John 10	27	My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.
John 10	28	give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.
Luke 12:32	32	"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.
Rev. 11:15	15	The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever

From this we Learn :

- (A) Because it is built on Christ, the church-Christ's people-shall never perish. We have His word for it!.
- (B) Eventually all of Christ's people are transferred from earth to glory, the church militant becomes the church triumphant, and Christ reigns over it for ever and ever.

**IT IS NOT ABOUT RELIGION,
BUT IT IS ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIP!**