

Topic 12: The Church *The Community of God*

“On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”

Matthew 16:18

The Disciple of Jesus needs to know certain things about the Bible, God (the Father, Son and the Holy Ghost), and the Church

Discipleship 101

A disciple is a person who is a student of the teachings of someone else.

People can be disciples of all sorts of people and ideas including religious, political, scientific and economic.

The Christian Disciple

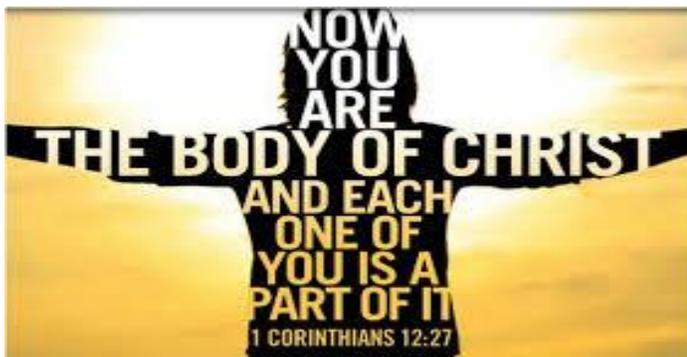
A Christian Disciple is one who follows Jesus

- to *know* Jesus and His teachings
- to *grow* more like Jesus
- and to *go* for Jesus, serving others and making new disciples

We are the Church

The gospels show that a disciple is one who follows Jesus by faith and *in community*. And let's not forget the exhortation given in Hebrews 10:25: “Not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

This spiritual community called *the church*



Looking at the Text

What does the Bible say about the Church?

“On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”

Matthew 16:18

The first occurrence of the word “church” in the Bible is found in Matthew 16:18. Jesus is talking with his disciples about the various opinions people have about him.

He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

“I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.” (Matthew 16:15–18, nasb)

Further

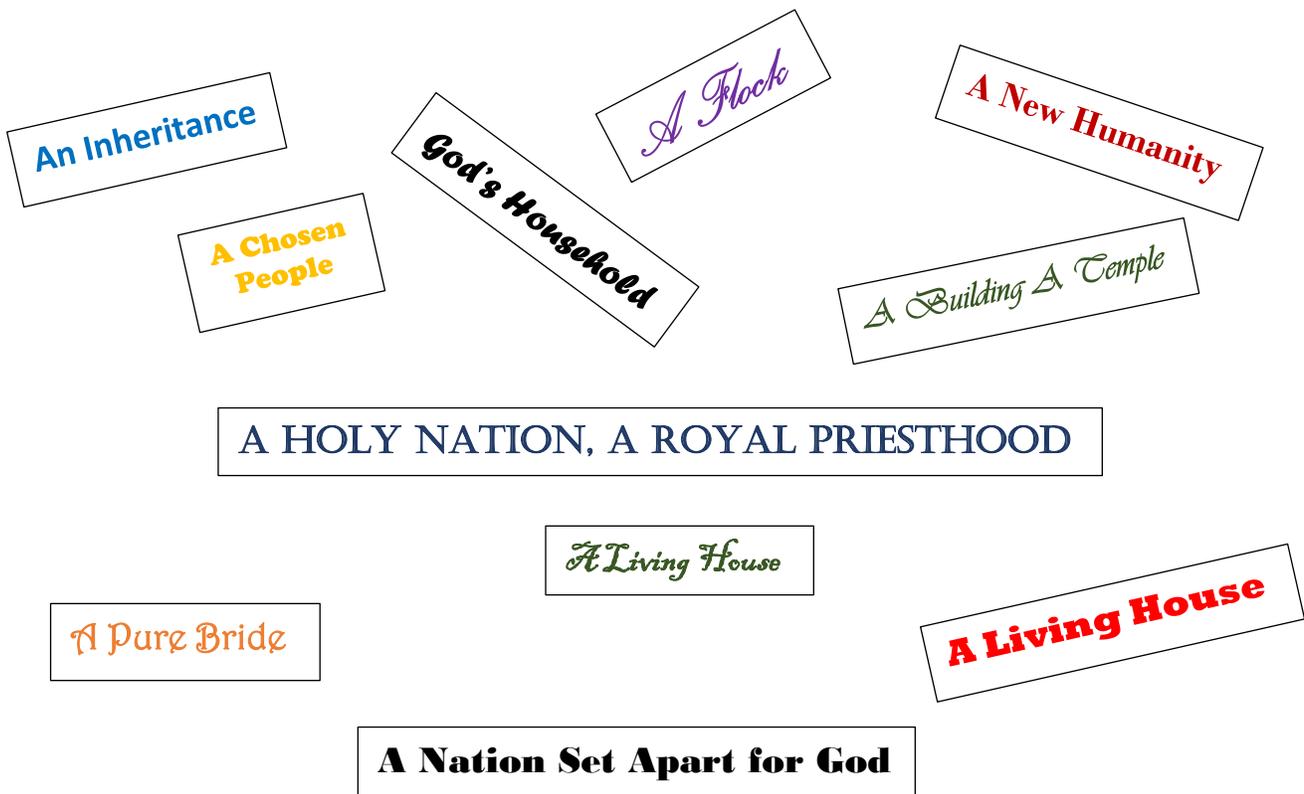
1 Corinthians 3:11 says “No man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” Clearly, Jesus Christ is the church’s true and ultimate foundation – their *bedrock*.

The word “church”? The Greek word is *ekklesia* – a compound word made up of the preposition that means “out from” and the verb that means “to call.” So *ekklesia* means “to call out from.”

In the New Testament it primarily refers to one of two things:

A *local* assembly of Christians living in a particular locale – 1 Corinthians 1:2; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; Revelation 1:11. We might think of this as the church.

The *universal* body of believers – all Christ-followers everywhere, even in heaven (Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:22–23; Colossians 1:18; Hebrews 12:23).



1. The Church is often referred to as a body. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul develops this metaphor, saying, “The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. . . . Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. . . . some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary . . . if one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad (vss. 12, 20, 22, 26, nlt). How should we see the church congregation functioning as a human body does?

2. Read Ephesians 2:20–21. What’s the Church picture or comparison here and what does it suggest?

3. Read Ephesians 5:22-23. What is the lesson we get about the church?

Consider Hill Chapel Baptist Church
Consider the congregation you are a part of

MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Hill Chapel Baptist Church is to bring others into relationship as disciples of Jesus Christ; to equip one another to be actively involved in His ministry of reconciliation; to promote the private and corporate worship of God, and to live empowered by the Holy Spirit, as we proclaim The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

VISION STATEMENT:

Making all people agents of healing and wholeness as Disciples of Jesus Christ.

MOTTO:

Becoming a church known by our faith and love

The local church relating as the Body of Christ

Showing sacrificial love to fellow Christians John 13:34
Honoring brothers and sisters in Christ Romans 12:10
Living in harmony with fellow believers Romans 12:16
Refusing to judge other Christians Romans 14:13
Accepting other believers as Christ accepted me Romans 15:7
Showing warmth to fellow disciples Romans 16:16
Making the effort to be agreeable 1 Corinthians 1:10
Encouraging other Christ followers 2 Corinthians 13:11
Serving fellow believers Galatians 5:13
Being patient and forgiving toward other believers Ephesians 4:2
Working to preserve unity with other believers Ephesians 4:3
Doing the work God has appointed for me Ephesians 2:10; 4:16
Being truthful in my interactions with others Ephesians 4:25
Trying to build others up Ephesians 4:29

Demonstrating kindness and compassion

Ephesians 4:32

Submitting to others

Ephesians 5:21

Being humble and servant-hearted

Philippians 2:5-8

Forgiving Christians who sin against me

Colossians 3:13

Warning other believers who are straying

Colossians 3:16

Inspiring other believers to do good

Hebrews 10:24

Meeting together regularly with other Christians

Hebrews 10:25

Resisting the urge to talk ill of other believers

James 4:11

Refusing to grumble and complain against others

James 5:9

Practicing hospitality toward fellow Christians

1 Peter 4:9

Giving gladly to the needs of other believers

2 Corinthians 9:7, 12

Seeking to grow up in my salvation

1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18

Using your gifts to grace others

1 Peter 4:10

Worshiping with other believers

Acts 13:2

Following the leadership of pastors and elders

Hebrews 13:17

4. Based on biblical statements about the church, how do I approach the following statements?

- ✓ "I love Jesus, but I can't stand church!"
- ✓ "That's my church!" (In referencing the place where one worships and has religious training.
- ✓ "I am looking for the perfect church which offers services that I'm looking for."
- ✓ "I'm going to church."