
What About the Church?

Why such bad music and boring, boring sermons?

1. Misconceptions about the church

- a. The church is not a building.
- b. The church is not a service.
- c. The church is not the clergy.
- d. The church is not a particular denomination.

2. Two factors about the church

- a. A Universal Church: Everyone who has been born again through authentic faith.
- b. Local Church: A local body of believers organized around common doctrines and practices.

3. Seven illustrations of church function

- a. A holy temple

So then you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with the saints, and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. The whole building, being put together by Him, grows into a holy sanctuary in the Lord. You also are being built together for God's dwelling in the Spirit. Ephesians 2:19-22 (HCSB)

- i. Foundation
- ii. Cornerstone
- iii. Dwelling

- b. Branches of a vine

- i. Dependent

My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be My disciples.

John 15:8 (HCSB)

ii. Growth / Fruit

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23 (HCSB)

c. Flock

i. Separate but unified

But I have other sheep that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will listen to My voice. Then there will be one flock, one shepherd.

John 10:16 (HCSB)

ii. Guided

For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, the sheep under His care.

Psalms 95:7 (HCSB)

iii. Cared & tended

Nations, hear the word of the Lord, and tell it among the far off coastlands! Say: The One who scattered Israel will gather him. He will watch over him as a shepherd guards his flock.

Jeremiah 31:10 (HCSB)

iv. Protection

He protects His flock like a shepherd; He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them in the fold of His garment. He gently leads those that are nursing.

Isaiah 40:11 (HCSB)

d. Army of God

i. Armor

Ephesians 6:13-18

ii. Weapons

Since the weapons of our warfare are not worldly, but are powerful through God for the demolition of strongholds. We demolish arguments.

2 Corinthians 10:4 (HCSB)

iii. Power

Now we have this treasure in clay jars, so that this extraordinary power may be from God and not from us.

2 Corinthians 4:7 (HCSB)

e. Family of God

i. Children of God

A unified family standing as one

But to all who did receive Him, He gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in His name. John 1:12 (HCSB)

ii. Brothers and Sisters

In Faithfulness, Fellowship, and Forgiveness

We love because He first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For the person who does not love his brother he has seen cannot love the God he has not seen. And we have this command from Him: The one who loves God must also love his brother.

1 John 4:19-21 (HCSB)

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Messiah has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father also loves the one born of Him.

1 John 5:1 (HCSB)

f. The body of Christ

i. Unity of the Spírit

Now there are different gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different ministries, but the same Lord. And there are different activities, but the same God activates each gift in each person.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (HCSB)

ii. Diversity

For as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body—so also is Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. So the body is not one part but many.

1 Corinthians 12:12-14 (HCSB)

iii. Mutual dependence

So the eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" Or again, the head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you!" But even more, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are necessary. And those parts of the body that we think to be less honorable, we clothe these with greater honor, and our unpresentable parts have a better presentation. But our presentable parts have no need of clothing. Instead, God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the less honorable, so that there would be no division in the body, but that the members would have the same concern for each other.

1 Corinthians 12:21-25 (HCSB)

Now you are the body of Christ, and individual members of it.

1 Corinthians 12:27 (HCSB)

g. The bride of Christ

i. Christ's love

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her to make her holy, cleansing her with the washing of water by the word. Ephesians 5:25-26 (HCSB)

ii. Christ's purpose

He did this to present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and blameless. Ephesians 5:27 (HCSB)

iii. Our response

- Holiness

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of the One who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9 (HCSB)

- Worship

Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship. Romans 12:1 (HCSB)

- Witness

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Matthew 28:19 (HCSB)

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8 (HCSB)

4. The importance of the church

- a.** Temple – Presence of God/Indwelling
- b.** Vine & Branches – Dependence/Growth
- c.** Flock – Cared for/Protected/Guided
- d.** Army – Power/Equipped
- e.** Family – Belonging/Wanted

f. Body – Purpose/Unified

g. Bride – Loved/Desired

Notes

