

THE AWESOME POWER OF VISION

Ryland Walter | May 14-15, 2022

Week 4: Why God Made The Church

Those who believed . . . were baptized and added to the church . . . They joined with the other believers and committed themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to the fellowship... They worshiped together regularly at the Temple courts and met in small groups in homes for communion, and shared meals with great joy and thankfulness. — Acts 2:41-42,46

DEFINITION: "A CHURCH is a group of saved & baptized believers who've joined together in a commitment to help each other fulfill God's purposes for their lives."

Five Benefits of a Church Family

1. A church helps me _____ my life around God
Christ's love has the first and last word in everything we do. Our firm decision is to work from this focused center: One man died for everyone. That puts everyone in the same boat. He included everyone in his death so that everyone could also be included in his life, a resurrection life, a far better life than people ever lived on their own. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (MSG)

The Bible calls this: _____

Dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Romans 12:1 (NLT)

2. A church helps me _____ with other believers
Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. Romans 12:4-5 (NLT)
And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister. 1 John 4:21 (NIV)

The Bible Calls This: _____

You are members of God's very own family...and you belong in God's household with every other Christian. Ephesians 2:19 (TLB)

How can I join this church family?

- Choose to belong! (Step One of Growth Track)
- Show your commitment by baptism

Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:13 (NLT)

3. A church helps me _____ spiritual maturity
Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity... Hebrews 6:1 (NIV)

The Bible calls this: _____

When your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything. James 1:3-4 (NLT)

4. A church helps me _____ something back
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 4:10 (NIV)

The Bible calls this: _____

For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do. Hebrews 6:10 (NLT)

5. A church helps me _____ God's message
Jesus: "You will be my witnesses..." Acts 1:8

The Bible calls this my _____

This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace. Colossians 1:6 (NLT)

Jesus: "I assure you that everyone who has sacrificed anything for my sake and for the Good News, will receive in return, a hundred times over..." Mark 10:29-30

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The Bible calls this: Worship

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1 Corinthians 12:13 (NLT)

3. A church helps me cultivate spiritual maturity

Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity... Hebrews 6:1 (NIV)

The Bible calls this: Discipleship

When your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything. James 1:3-4 (NLT)

4. A church helps me contribute something back

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 4:10 (NIV)

The Bible calls this: Ministry

For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do. Hebrews 6:10 (NLT)

5. A church helps me communicate God's message

Jesus: "You will be my witnesses..." Acts 1:8

The Bible calls this my Mission

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