

# Unit 6: Ecclesiology: The Study of the Church

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## Unit Introduction



In this unit, we will study Ecclesiology – the doctrine of the Church. In Lesson 14, we will see that the Church is much more than the building we meet in – it is composed of every believer in Christ around the world. We will also look at what the Church is not, namely the Kingdom and Israel.

In Lesson 15, we will explore the ordinances of the Church. These consist of water baptism and communion. The third item in this lesson will be the study of church discipline, a necessary part for

keeping purity in the Church.

## Unit Outline

Lesson 14: Why Have Church?

Lesson 15: Ordinances of the Church

# Lesson 14: Why Have Church?

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## Lesson Introduction

One morning, a mother went into her son's room to wake him up. "Larry, if you don't get up now, you will be late for church!" Her son replied, "I don't want to go to church".

"You have to go to church," she responded.

"Give me 2 good reasons why I should get up and go to church," Larry retorted.

With wisdom only a mother can conjure up, she replied, "Number 1, it's Sunday morning. And reason Number 2, you're the pastor!"

Most of us have experienced that feeling at least once in our lives, when we just really don't feel like going to church. You've probably asked yourself, "Why do I need to go to church?"

In this lesson, we will answer that question. We will begin by examining just what exactly the church is. Then, we will look at 2 things that people often confuse with the church. We will also look at the universal church, also known as the body of Christ, and see that we are the Bride of Christ. Finally, we will look at the foundation and purpose of the church.

## Lesson Outline

Topic 1: What the Church IS

The Local Church

Topic 2: What the Church IS NOT

Why Does It Matter?

Topic 3: The Body of Christ

Topic 4: The Bride of Christ

Topic 5: The Foundation of the Church

Topic 6: The Purpose of the Church

## Topic 1: What the Church IS

Why do we have it? Why do we go? What's the whole point? What's the purpose? Why do we have church? Well, there's several things that we find in the Scriptures that will teach us what the church is about, and why are we here. It's ecclesiology. It's the study of the church and the study of these things. The church, number one, is an organism. An organism is more than an organization. An organization is something that is basically not alive. An organism, though, is something that is alive. Only a living body has life. And we'll find out later that we are also called the living body. The church is a body, and as a body, we are an organism. When life ceases, an organism becomes an organization, and too many churches are nothing more than organizations. There's a lot of churches that are interested in social projects, which again, we would be for a lot of them. But they're not winning souls. They're not preaching the gospel. They're not talking about the Lord Jesus Christ as the Way. And they're not talking about the blood of Christ that has been shed for the sins of the world. They're not explaining this to people. So yeah, they might feed someone, or they might bring water to a dry part of the world. Put then that person who has that water and that bread is going to die and go into a Christless eternity. So we are to

be people of compassion, and people that provide the cup of cold water in the name of the Lord. We should do it in the name of the Lord. We should do it coupled with the gospel. But a church is a organism, not just an organization, number one. Number two, the word “church” is basically ecclesia, okay. There’s two Greek words, ekkelo, which is “to call out or to summon,” and ecclesia is derived from that, which means “a called out assembly.” This is customarily used in Greek literature referring to a political gathering. And an assembly of citizens regularly summoned together was the root of this word. And ecclesia is a called out assembly, and that’s what we are. We know that Israel was called out to be a separate people, a holy people. We know the Church is different than Israel, and we’re going look at that too. But we are called out. Called out of what? We’re called out of the world, called out of the system of the world, called out of the desires of the world. We’re to be set apart. We’re to be living differently. And we’re to be following the Lord in all that He tells us to do. We can find this word used 121 times in the New Testament and that references three different things. 1. Three times in Scripture—I think it’s in Acts—it references a mob, okay. Now I don’t think that would apply, at least to this church, at least to most of us in this church. One time in the New Testament refers to the children of Israel where it says the Israelites in the wilderness were a true ecclesia because they were called out of Egypt. But it is used every other time, 118 times, in the New Testament to mean a church.

### **QUESTION 1**

The church should not just be a well-run \_\_\_\_\_.

### **QUESTION 2**

An \_\_\_\_\_ is something that is alive.

### **QUESTION 3**

In the New Testament, the word “church” is used to mean a called-out \_\_\_\_\_.

### **QUESTION 4**

Christians are called to be set \_\_\_\_\_.

## **The Local Church**

Over 90 times, ecclesia, the Greek word in the New Testament that means church in English is used to mean the local church, the local body of believers in a location. It’s a specific location. And that’s the third thing that we know about church. The church is local. (1 Corinthians 1:2), this is the introduction to the church, the letter to the church in Corinth in verse 1 (1 Corinthians 1:2) So this is a letter which is written to the church at Corinth. It’s a specific location. The same thing in Galatians. We find it in the introduction into Galatians (Galatians 1:2) Galatia was an area, a region, and there were several different, three, or four, or five different churches in that part of the world. The local places, though, to specific local churches. The major emphasis of the word “church” in the New Testament is in reference to local churches. We believe in the local church. There’s a lot of organizations today, we call them “parachurch organizations.” Some of them are good But that’s a parachurch organization. But their mission is to come alongside churches and help churches. Every Awana Club meets in a church. In that sense, a parachurch organization is fine. But there are other parachurch organizations are kind of taking the place of churches, or trying to. Sometimes it could be a TV or radio network. Even one is trying to tell people there aren’t any more good churches, so just have your own church at home. You’re your home church, just you and

your family. Well, that's not biblical. I mean two or three are gathered together, He's in the midst, but my goodness, a church needs to be more than just you and your family if possible. So a church is a gathering of believers in one location, one place. And these churches were autonomous and self-governing. Why is that important? We don't see a hierarchy in Scripture. We don't see this guy's in charge of this, and these guys are in charge of this, and then all of these guys are underneath these guys as a denomination. Usually a denomination gets its strength and its foothold when they start pooling money for missions or for projects. but I don't believe that's the biblical model. The biblical model is a local, autonomous, self-governing body of believers in a location with the pastor, with the officers of the church underneath. And we don't see the hierarchy in Scripture. Oh, we see Paul. You know what, early church is a little different, too, because they were just getting saved and there wasn't anything, you know. And so Paul was leading people to the Lord and training people, and then they would like send Timothy to Ephesus and other things, and we see that happening. But he basically was writing letters to them, but that was all inspired. But he didn't get involved in day-to-day operations of the churches. And so we don't see that as biblical, but we do see what is biblical is the church being self-governed under the direction of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that is the best way a church should be, local church. But there are some people that believe so strongly in the local church, some Baptists. They don't believe in this next point, which is the church universal. there is a universal church. I'm strong local church, and very much in agreement with Baptist doctrine and distinctives, but there is a universal church. How do I know that? Well (Ephesians 5:25), No, that doesn't prove that the church is universal, but the next part does . . . It's not the church at Ephesus. It's not the churches of Galatia. It's not the church at Corinth. It's the church. It's the universal body of Christ. That's actually what the word "Catholic" means. It means universal, okay. So you could say, "I believe in the Catholic Church." You don't believe in the Roman Catholic Church, but you know, that's different. But the universal church is biblical, because Christ loved the church.

### **QUESTION 5**

In the New Testament, the emphasis is on the \_\_\_\_\_ church.

### **QUESTION 6**

The biblical model for the church is to \_\_\_\_\_ and self-governing.

### **QUESTION 7**

Even though he started many churches, \_\_\_\_\_ was not involved in the daily operations.

### **QUESTION 8**

The Church is the universal Body of \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ.

## **Topic 2: What the Church IS NOT**

Now some people have seen a couple things in Scripture, especially in the Old Testament, and they equate the Church to these things, and they aren't the same. One is the Kingdom and one is Israel. The Church is not—we found out what the Church is; we'll find out more things what the Church is—the Church is not the Kingdom. We see the Kingdom in a lot of places in Scripture . . . you could obviously see that the Kingdom is mentioned. We believe there is a coming Millennial Kingdom where Christ will

reign on this earth. Israel will reign. We will reign. The Church will rule and reign with Him. Israel will be in their land. Okay, that's what's going to distinguish them from us. But there's other things that distinguish us from the Kingdom, okay. This time that we're living in right now is not the Kingdom, okay. Some of the aspects of the Kingdom come into play today in our lives. And it's going to be somewhat like the Kingdom will be, but it's not the Kingdom. There are no heirs of the Church, but the Church is heir of the Kingdom. That's one distinction. Another, the Church has elders; the Kingdom has no elders. They're two different things. Other things that are different, there are no sons of the Church, while there are sons of the Kingdom. The Church is called a temple, while the Kingdom is never called a temple. The Church is here and the Kingdom is not. It's not present now. The Church is to be built up, while the Kingdom is to be set up. So these are just a few of the reasons why we know that these are distinct. They're not the same, and so people that say, "We are in the Kingdom now," or "The Church is the Kingdom," they are not preaching what the Bible is teaching. And some of those same people say because Israel blew it by rejecting the Messiah—remember when they said, "Let His blood be on us and our children"? and although they did blow it there by rejecting Him as a nation, rejecting the Messiah, He's not done with them as a nation. We're in this holding pattern. We're in this parenthesis, which we call the Church Age. It was a mystery. But we have not replaced Israel. How do I know that? Because God gave Israel promises for eternity, and if He gave Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and their descendants a promise for eternity like the land and other things, then we cannot possibly possess what God has promised to them. We are not Israel. We are the Church. Okay, we're different. The Church is not Israel. Israel is not the Church. There are three classes of people in the Scriptures, and in (Galatians 3:28) it talks about neither Jew [nor] Greek, by the way Greek is Gentile, so if you're not Jewish, you are a Gentile, okay. Bond or free, male or female, all one in Christ Jesus. So you have three classes of people: you have the Jew, the Gentile, and the Church, okay. Right now if you are in the church then you're neither Jew [nor] Gentile, Jew or Greek, okay. We're all one in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:14) talks about the partition wall that has been torn down, okay, and making peace. So that's telling us that we are distinct from Israel. Here's some other proofs. 80% of the Bible deals with Israel. Only 20% deals with the Church. God gave Israel earthly promises. We are loaded up with spiritual blessings that God has given to the Church. Israel, physical, land flowing with milk and honey; you know, safety, security, water—everything you need to be prosperous. And when they obeyed the Lord, they were prosperous. When they disobeyed the Lord, they weren't prosperous. In fact, when they rejected the Messiah as a nation, they were set aside and blinded, blinded—and they don't get it today. A few do, some individuals do, but as a nation, they don't understand it. They're very confused. But we have the spiritual promises to the Church and physical to Israel. We have Israel being a physical seed of Abraham, but you know we're called the spiritual seed of Abraham. But there's a difference. We're spiritually, we should be spiritually thankful to the Jewish people and to Abraham. Why? Because Jesus came from Abraham, and so spiritually we are thankful for that. But we're spiritual children, not physical, People enter Israel by physical birth, the Church by spiritual birth. Israel is under unconditional covenants and will have a new covenant, while the Church already has a new covenant. Israel is confined to one nation, while the Church is composed of all nations. You see, a lot of differences. A lot of differences.

## **QUESTION 9**

The Church is not to be equated with the \_\_\_\_\_.

## **QUESTION 10**

There are no \_\_\_\_\_ of the Church, but the Church is heir of the Kingdom.

## QUESTION 11

If you are in the Church, then you are neither \_\_\_\_\_ nor \_\_\_\_\_.

## QUESTION 12

Israel is under \_\_\_\_\_ covenants and will have a new covenant, while the Church already has a new covenant.

## Why Does It Matter?

Now why does this matter? Well, the people that say we replaced Israel also don't believe in a literal interpretation of prophecy in Revelation, in Daniel. And so they think that we're in, somehow we're in the Kingdom Age, or if we do everything we need to do, we will usher in the Kingdom of Christ. But the Bible doesn't say that. The Bible tells us to be about the Father's business, to be preaching the gospel, to be a light to the world, and then we'll be taken up. And God will work again with Israel. Not with us, with Israel. They have a whole messed up view of prophecy, and they don't support Israel. The secular state of Israel today is nothing more than a secular state, but I really believe it's a partial fulfillment of prophecy. Ezekiel, vision of the dry bones, the Valley of Dry Bones, the bones were gathered together. From all over the world, allia, we have the return of Jews to Israel. They were dispersed. They were all over the world. Every place. Now I believe there's more Jews in Israel than in the United States. They've come . . . by the hundreds and hundreds, and thousands and thousands, from all over. Ethiopia—there's black Jews. European Jews, and because of World War II and because of the Holocaust, they were given a homeland. Praise the Lord. But it's a partial fulfillment. But we know there is going to be a day when those bones will not only have flesh and muscle, but have life, and that's what they believe. They have life, and that's again, in the Tribulation, and on into the Millennium. Distinct though, distinct. And the people that don't understand this have a wrong view of Christ. They don't understand what's coming next, and they don't support Israel, and we should support Israel. Israel is the adulterous wife of Jehovah. In other words, Israel was committing fornication in the sense of going after false gods. That was called adultery in Scripture. Well, the Church is the pure bride of Christ. Israel is not indwelt by the Holy Spirit, while all Christians are. That's a whole new thing that the Church is privy to, not Israel. The Church—Christ is Savior, Lord, Bridegroom, and Head; to Israel, Christ is the Messiah, Emmanuel, and King—different. Israel had a priesthood; the Church is a priesthood. And so we see things that are completely different and distinct. We are not Israel; they are not the Church, and praise the Lord that there again will be one day when God will once again work with His people, Israel. The Church is a mystery. The Church is a mystery, according to (Ephesians 3:9) It talks about . . . The mystery is that which was not known before, but is now revealed, okay. There were some hints of this in the Old Testament, but there was nothing clear, and no one would have understood the Church in this special dispensation that we find ourselves in. A mystery is something previously hid with God and is now revealed.

### Assignment:

- Memorize Ephesians 3:9

## QUESTION 13

Those who believe that the Church has replaced Israel don't believe in a literal \_\_\_\_\_ of Biblical prophecy.

## QUESTION 14

The Bible tells us that we are to be a \_\_\_\_\_ to the world.

## QUESTION 15

To the \_\_\_\_\_, Christ is Savior, Lord, and Bridegroom, while to \_\_\_\_\_, Christ is Messiah, Emmanuel and King.

## QUESTION 16

A \_\_\_\_\_ is something previously hid with God, but now revealed.

## Topic 3: The Body of Christ

The eighth thing that we know about the church from Scripture is the church is the body of Christ. Again, we talked about the universal church. This is why it's universal. 1 Corinthians 12, we find out a lot about it. We're just going to look at a couple verses here. Verse 12 of chapter 12 (1 Corinthians 12:12) Many members, one body, okay. . . . We are a body. We're all one. I believe that every individual is part of the body, and we can't function without you. I really believe that. I believe that all Christians in the world are part of one body, the Body of Christ, and can't function without you. Many members, each having their jobs. Every part has a job to do. And it might be menial or it might seem, I mean, how much work does the little toe do really? Well, lose the little toe, and you'll find out, you know. You could probably do without it, but you're going to know it's gone. Your balance won't be quite like it should be and other things. It seems insignificant until you lose it, okay. Then you realize "Wow! Wow, man!" So every part is important. And this is what we're called. We're called the Body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:12-13) Remember how we talked about the Spirit's work, and how the Spirit baptizes us into the Body of Christ. Now we're all one body. If you're saved, if you've put your faith, your dependence, your trust in Jesus Christ, you have everlasting life. You're in the body. And you need to function. You need to do what God is calling you to do. Why? Because you're part of the body. It's important. It might seem small; it might seem menial; it might seem useless—why am I doing this? Or maybe you're not doing anything. Man, there's going to be much more for you to do. Why? Because you're part of a body, and you need to function like that. Okay, let's look at, skip down to verse 25, (1 Corinthians 12:25) You know, and there's a lot in the Bible about not treating someone better than someone else, and that's very common in the world because of money, or status, or background, or how someone smells, you know. We treat certain people better than others. We ought not to. We're all one. We're all the same. We should all care for each other the same. (1 Corinthians 12:26) (1 Corinthians 12:27) Again, we could go on and on about the body of Christ, couldn't we? Just it's a really interesting component of the local church, of the church universal. It's the Body of Christ. One injured member affects all the rest of the body. God has given us spiritual gifts, and if they're not used, the whole body is crippled. Being part of the Body of Christ guarantees our salvation, by the way. Once you're a part of the Body of Christ, you'll always be part of the Body of Christ, because if you weren't anymore, then the Body of Christ would be mutilated. Now we do know the body, the physical body of Christ, was mutilated during His crucifixion, but never again will it happen. And so you are secure in Christ, because you are the Body of Christ, and it's wonderful to know that truth and to have that security as a believer. Number 9, the church is a building. (1 Corinthians 3:9-10) It's an analogy. We are God's building. So we have the church is God's building built on the foundation of Jesus Christ. He's the Chief Corner Stone. We'll look at that in a moment in a bit more

detail. (Ephesians 2:20) It's because of the Spirit of God. That's the building with God. He lives in us. Therefore, we are the building of God. (1 Peter 2:5) We are all living stones, lively stones, built up, a spiritual house, a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. This is the church. Isn't that neat? The church is a building.

### **QUESTION 17**

All Christians in the world are part of one \_\_\_\_\_, the Body of Christ.

### **QUESTION 18**

Each member of the body of Christ has a specific \_\_\_\_\_.

### **QUESTION 19**

Once you are a part of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, you will always be a part.

### **QUESTION 20**

The church is God's building built on the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ.

## **Topic 4: The Bride of Christ**

The church is a bride, number 10, a bride. We talked about the Body of Christ. The body is the bride of Christ. Revelation 19 and other places, again, we could spend a lot of time in this, but remember how we said as the husband ought to love the wife as Christ loved the church? How much did Christ love the church? He gave Himself. He died on the cross and became sin and He suffered untold agony. How much should a husband love the wife? (Revelation 19:7) By the way, this is in the future, when the Church is raptured, okay. Gathered up together. We're in Heaven. This is happening during the Tribulation Period. We're in Heaven. One of the events is the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. And this is one of them. "The wife hath made herself ready." We are the bride; we are the wife. It's hard for some of us guys, you know, to understand that. But we are all the bride of Christ. (Revelation 19:9) The husband and wife relationship pictures Christ and the Church. The bride is purchased by the groom. We've been bought with a price, right? We've been bought with a price. The bride is espoused to Christ or engaged. We don't really understand espousal. We know that Mary was espoused to Joseph, but there was a waiting period, okay. It's an engagement. It's what we know as engagement. When you have the guy that comes and is all enamored and enraptured, and it is in a fog because of her beauty and her charm, and her smell, hopefully. He gets down on one knee, holds out that box, opens it up, and it's a ring. And he says, "Will you marry me?" And he waits, and he waits, and waits. And finally, she says, "Yes." And then begins with that engagement ring a waiting time. Biblically, this was to check on the purity situation. You know what I'm saying, okay. So we're in this waiting period. We're espoused to Christ. We are engaged to Him, but that marriage will be consummated, the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, and then all through eternity, when we will be with Him. (2 Corinthians 11:2) That is why the pastor is so serious about making sure there isn't sin in the church. In dealing with sin in a very loving, but firm way, okay. Because the pastor has to answer for Christ, we are presenting the Church as a chaste virgin to Christ. Any unblemishes would come to light during that period.

## QUESTION 21

Another name for the Body of Christ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

## QUESTION 22

The husband/wife relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Christ and the church.

## Topic 5: The Foundation of the Church

Number 11, the Church has a foundation, (Ephesians 2:20). The Church is built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. Both are found in the very beginning of the Church. Now, you more than likely have come across somewhere in your life someone that says, “Hey, I am Apostle So-and-So.” What do you do when someone says I’m an apostle or I’m a prophet? Well, we believe from 1 Corinthians 13 and other places that the sign gifts have ceased, okay. They were misused anyways. Tongues, healing, prophecy, and things—they were misused. But they are ceased. Prophecy shall fail, it says. It will be done away with; it will stop. And prophets that prophecy in the New Testament Church was common because it was used to teach the Word of God to people because they didn’t have it. They didn’t have it all. The New Testament wasn’t done. “But when that which is perfect is come,” the Scripture, “that which is not is done away with.” So again, prophecy, apostles, okay. there were 12 apostles. There are no more apostles. That was only for the beginning of the Church. The foundation, okay. From there we’ve built up. Christ the Chief Corner Stone, the apostles and prophets had their place in the New Testament Church, but no longer are there. They had sign gifts that verif[ied] that God had given them their offices. But again, if they aren’t here, we don’t have those sign gifts today. Can God do miracles? Yes, absolutely. I have seen many miracles, but I haven’t seen someone with the power and ability to wave his hand or blow on someone and the whole crowd fall. So—well I’ve seen it, but—I don’t believe it’s biblical. And then we have Number 12, the Church was given evangelists, pastors, and teachers. (Ephesians 4:11) Verse 12, why? (Ephesians 4:12) . . . There it is again, the body of Christ. Why do we have these individuals? It’s to help us to learn, to grow. Why do we have a pastor? Why do we have pastor-teacher? Why do we have an evangelist? Evangelist[s], by the way, are men burdened for the lost. It comes from two Greek words that means “to announce the good news and declare the gospel.” And there are evangelists. I’ve met evangelists, and they have such a passion and zeal for the lost, it’s wonderful. A pastor, by the way, is told to do the work of an evangelist. But there is a specific person called an evangelist with that gift. Pastors are instructed to do the work of an evangelist in 2 Timothy 4:5. And then we have pastors and teachers. Most people that study the Scriptures believe that two activities, the pastor and the teacher, are a part of one person. The pastor, in other words, is to be a teacher. The pastor is also a shepherd responsible for the sheep. Hebrews 13:17 talks about obeying them that have the rule over you and submitting to them. Why? Because they’re the shepherd, they’re watching, they’re caring. They want to give an account with joy to the Lord, not with grief. The saints need to do the work of the ministry, building up the Body of Christ, being in unity, not tossed about with wind of doctrine. All of this is accomplished by these gifts God has given to the Church—the evangelist, the pastor, the teacher—to build up the Body. The Church also has other officers, The Church has deacons, and the Church has elders, officers of the Church. The deacons were a group of people that were given a responsibility to serve. The original deacons in Acts 6 did the work so the disciples could spend their time with prayer and study, okay, the ministry of the Word of God. And then we have elders or bishops. The elder is the person, the bishop is the office. They were overseers of the church. By the way, pastors are elders, but there are some elders that are not pastors. Some elders rule well, it tells us in Scripture. Some labor in the Word and in doctrine. So we have men

that are the spiritual guidance in the Church, and the people that are able to teach and govern the spiritual matters of the Church. So we have deacons and elders, two important positions in the Church that God has given us.

**Assignment:**

- Memorize Ephesians 4:11-12

**QUESTION 23**

Apostles and prophets were a \_\_\_\_\_, or cornerstone, of the Church.

**QUESTION 24**

The church was given evangelists, \_\_\_\_\_, and teachers.

**QUESTION 25**

Pastors and teachers are given to help us \_\_\_\_\_ and grow.

**QUESTION 26**

All pastors are \_\_\_\_\_, but not all elders are pastors.

## **Topic 6: The Purpose of the Church**

And then the purpose of the Church . Why is the Church here? Well, it's the whole reason why we're here, to give glory to God. To show the world the testimony of the visible body of Christ on the earth so that they can see the work of Christ. He is physically at the right hand of the Father. His body, right now today. So we are the visible representative of Christ on the earth. That's why we're here. That's the purpose of the Church. We're here to build up the Body, to spread the gospel, to win people to Christ, to baptize, to teach. Why should you go to Church? Well, we're told to not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, but in church, we're taught the Word of God. Where are you going to be taught the Word of God if you don't go to church? Where are you going to be under discipline? There's three more things that are a very important part of the Church: 1. Discipline, church discipline, 2. Baptism, the ordinances of baptism and [3.] Communion. Church discipline, baptism, communion. Where would you be under church discipline? You say, "Well, I'd rather not be under church discipline." Yeah, but if you have your kids that aren't under discipline, you're going to have some brats when they grow up. The Lord uses church discipline for our good. And of course the ordinances, how would we celebrate the Lord's Supper? How would we be water baptized if it wasn't for the church? How would we be edified, built up, okay? So the reason that we should be in church, why do we have church, is so that we can be taught the Word of God, so that we can be under the love, and sometimes chiding, of the pastor and of the leadership, that we might be able to observe the ordinances of water baptism and Communion, and that we might be edified and encouraged, and strengthened, and given an outlet for ministry.

**QUESTION 27**

Our number 1 purpose should be to bring \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

**QUESTION 28**

We are not to forsake the \_\_\_\_\_ of ourselves with other believers.

**QUESTION 29**

The Church is Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ here on earth.

**QUESTION 30**

Three things that we are to get in the Church are \_\_\_\_\_, baptism, and \_\_\_\_\_.