

## The Church: The Body of Christ

In this Study we will be looking at many characteristics of what is commonly known as the Church. There are symbolic precursors in the Old Testament and a number of metaphorical names that the Church is described as in the New Testament. We will also look at some of the functions, gifts, and callings associated with the Church.

The first thing that comes to mind when most people hear the word “Church” is some kind of building where people meet to have a religious service.

1. 1 Peter 2:5 What does God describe us as and what kind of house are we called as a result?

Answer: You also as \_\_\_\_\_ stones, are being built up as a \_\_\_\_\_ house

By this we can plainly see that we are a live, spiritual house, and much more than just a physical building! Much more is yet to come to break this down into God’s awesome plan, called the Church!

In the Old Testament there was a great emphasis on the meeting places where the people gathered to worship, and eventually a beautiful temple was built to honor God which was an amazing structure.

2. 1 Kings 8: 22-24 What king built and dedicated the most beautiful temple that Israel has ever constructed to worship in?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

3. 1 Kings 8:27 Did King Solomon say that this temple could contain God?

Answer: \_\_\_\_

4. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Even as holy as Solomon’s temple was considered, what was the body of each individual follower of Jesus in the New Testament called?

Answer: Your body is a \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit

How awesome is it that we are considered “Holy Temples” of God!

5. Matthew 16:18 What was the name that was first given by Jesus to describe the people of God in a say which had never been heard before in a spiritual context?

Answer: Upon this rock I will build my \_\_\_\_\_ and the gates of Hades shall not overcome it

The Greek word for Church is “Ekklesia”. It was a word that the people recognized as a group of people appointed by the Romans to carry out the will of Rome. But Jesus was making a new statement. These followers of His would be ones that would carry out spiritual authority in His Name and would be establishing a Spiritual Kingdom, not a military one. So powerful was this entity now being called “The Church”, that Jesus went as far as to say that the gates of Hades couldn’t overcome it!

6. Ephesians 1:22-23 What is another name that Jesus calls the Church?

Answer: Which is His \_\_\_\_\_, the fullness of Him who fills all in all

7. Ephesians 4:15 Who is the head of the Church?

Answer: Who is the head, even \_\_\_\_\_

There are plenty of scriptures talking about the Church as being compared to a human body.

8. 1 Corinthians 12: 14 Are there few or many members in God's Body?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

In the Study on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit we learned that in this same chapter of 1 Corinthians 12 there are many gifts, and now we see that there are many members as well!

9. 1 Corinthians 12:18 Who decides where people fit into His body?

Answer: But now \_\_\_\_\_ has placed the members

10. 1 Corinthians 12:20 Even though there are many members how many bodies are there?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

11. 1 Corinthians 12:25 By each of us humbling ourselves and giving honor to even those that we would consider weaker or less necessary, what does that help accomplish in regards to unity in the body?

Answer: That there should be no \_\_\_\_\_ in the body

When we understand how important every single member of the body is, it helps us not to be upset when someone is called to be a leader in the Church. They all have the same value in God's eyes!

Let's look at some of the different types of ministries, gifts and callings that are in God's Church.

The first group is types of ministries of leadership. These are not the only types of leadership, but they serve a purpose to help the body function effectively.

12. Ephesians 4:11 What are the five ministry gifts that God gave the body that is listed here?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Let's take each one of these, which are sometimes referred to as the "Five-fold Ministries", and give just one scripture reference for each one that will show a characteristic of them individually. A person can have more than one of these gifts, but to better understand each one, it is recommended that you do your own research later and can comment on them in your essay at the end of this Study.

13. 1 Corinthians 3:10 Apostles were known to preach and perform miracles, and lay foundations for the start of new Churches. What kind of builder was the gift given to the Apostle Paul?

Answer: As a \_\_\_\_\_ builder I laid a foundation

14. Ephesians 2:20 Besides the Apostles, what was the other Ministry Gift that built the very foundations to help the Church operate in all that it was intended to do?

Answer: Having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and \_\_\_\_\_

We learned in the Study of The Gifts of the Holy Spirit that all may prophesy, but a Prophet in the Church with a proven leadership background has a ministry that helps give the Church direction. He works alongside the Apostles to lay a biblically based foundation.

15. Acts 8:5-6 What were the two characteristics that accompanied Philip that confirmed he was an Evangelist?

Answer: He began \_\_\_\_\_ Christ to them. They saw the \_\_\_\_\_ which he was performing

16. John 21:16 In a very moving encounter between Jesus and the Apostle Peter, what does Jesus tell Peter to do that designates him as a Pastor in addition to his role as an Apostle?

Answer: "He said to him, \_\_\_\_\_ My sheep

A Pastor tends to the flock, guides the flock, and guards them. He has a counseling gift. He has a fathering heart in which the Apostle Paul said that there was a shortage of 1 Corinthians 4:15.

Even though the special ministry of being a Teacher in the Church is mentioned in the Five-fold Ministry gifts, we all are supposed to be learning continuously so that we can fulfil the Great Commission of "making disciples" of all the nations!

17. 2 Timothy 2:2 What did Apostle Paul tell Timothy to do with the things that he had taught him?

Answer: Entrust to \_\_\_\_\_ men, who will be able to teach others also

These Five-fold ministry gifts are not just for us to sit back and watch them do all of the work. That would turn us all into lazy, lukewarm Christians.

18. Ephesians 4:12 What is the more important job of these Ministry gifts?

Answer: For the \_\_\_\_\_ of the saints for the work of \_\_\_\_\_

19. Ephesians 4:12 As a result what will the saints be doing for the Church?

Answer: to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the body of Christ

20. Ephesians 4:16 How is the whole body being held together in a proper working manner?

Answer: By that which \_\_\_\_\_ supplies

There is a lot to unpack in verses 11-16 in Ephesians 4. It is strongly recommended to study this passage and incorporate it into your essay discussion.

21. 1 Corinthians 12:28 Besides the Five-fold Ministry gifts, what are the other gifts mentioned here?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_, gifts of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, various kinds of \_\_\_\_\_

The Apostles appointed Overseers, or sometimes referred to as Bishops or Elders, to watch over the churches.

22. 1 Timothy 3:1-7 In this description of the qualifications of an Overseer, what is the very first high standard that one must have to be an Elder?

Answer: An Overseer, then, must be \_\_\_\_\_

23. Titus 1:5 Was Titus instructed by Apostle Paul to appoint only one Elder in every city?

Answer: \_\_\_\_

We have seen throughout this Study on the Church, (the Body of Christ), that there are many members that all have important functions and they all need to work together. So it makes total sense that there is a team of Elders that work together in order to get a balanced and more accurate discernment of God's purposes and direction for each Church.

Here are some scriptures to help write your Essay: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 3:10; Ephesians 4:11-16; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; 2 Timothy 2:24-26; Acts 13:1-3

Essay:

Answers:

1. Living, spiritual
2. Solomon
3. No
4. Temple
5. Church
6. Body
7. Christ (Jesus)
8. Many
9. God
10. One
11. Division
12. Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers
13. Wise master
14. Prophets
15. Proclaiming; signs (Attesting miracles)
16. Shepherd
17. Faithful
18. Equipping, service
19. Building up
20. Every joint
21. Miracles, Healings, Helps, Administrations, Tongues
22. Above reproach
23. No

