

F A Q

“Questions about the Church”

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Selected Passages (ESV)

QUESTION:

Why do I need to go to church if I am already a believer, especially if I can't stand institutionalized religion?

WHAT IS A CHURCH?

A church is _____ — a gathering of individuals who believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord—not a building or meeting place (see 1 Cor. 16:19).

- In the Bible the word “church” is a translation of the Greek word “ekklesia,” meaning “a calling out” or “called out ones.” It never refers to a building or meeting place, but always to a community of people, the ones “called out” of the world by God, calling them into His own.
- In the Scriptures church can refer to the group of believers in a particular location (local church), or to the entire body of believers in Jesus Christ (the Church or Catholic Church).

WHAT DOES A CHURCH DO?

(Acts 2:42-47)

1. A church does _____ – the community responds to who God is and what he has done through acts of adoration and praise.
2. A church does _____ – the community participates in life together.
3. A church does _____ – the community grows to become more like Jesus Christ.
4. A church does _____ – the community utilizes gifts, talents, and resources to serve others.
5. A church does _____ – the community shares the love of Jesus Christ with the unbelieving world.

WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A CHURCH?

1. _____ : vital relationships (Hebrews 10:25)
 - We should not be isolationists in our thinking or behavior. It's easy for us to focus on our own demands and pressures and feel that we have too little time to get involved with others. We don't see how we can take the time to spend with them beyond our Sunday corporate gatherings. So we subtly isolate ourselves. We find ourselves very much alone. But, isolation makes for weakness in my own spiritual life and the body of Christ.
 - Every metaphor for a church in the Bible supports the community aspect of a church:
 - A brick in a building (Eph. 2:19-22)
 - A part of a body (Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27)
 - A sheep in a flock (Psalm 100:3)
 - A member of a family (1 Timothy 3:15; Ephesians 2:19)

2. _____ : giving and receiving

By God's design, a church is the place where believers:

- Love one another (1 John 4:12),
 - Encourage one another spiritually (Hebrews 3:13),
 - Spur one another towards love and good deeds for Christ (Hebrews 10:24)
 - Serve one another (Galatians 5:13)
 - Instruct one another (Romans 15:14)
 - Be kind and compassionate to one another (Ephesians 4:32)
 - Accept one another (Romans 15:7)
 - Worship and thank God with one another (Colossians 3:16, 17)
 - Encourage and build one another with the hope of Christ (1 Thes. 5:11)
 - Pray for one another (James 5:16)
 - Bear the burdens of one another (Galatians 6:2)
 - Help one another grow spiritually (Ephesians 4:16)
- The fact is, we need one another and cannot function effectively without deep links into each other's lives.

CENTRAL TRUTH

A church is a gathering of believers that is characterized by community and mutuality.

** LifeGroup Study questions are available for pick up at the Information Center located in the lobby. They are also available online at www.ynccla.org.

** CDs of today's message as well as previous weeks' sermons are available in the YNCC office. Sermons are also viewable online at www.ynccla.org/sermons.