

The Importance of the Church

- I. The Importance of the Church to Jesus Christ
 - A. He prayed for the church. John 17:5
 - B. He died for the church. Revelation 1:5
 - C. He lives and intercedes for the church. Hebrews 7:25
 - D. He is coming back for the church. John 14:3

- II. The Importance of the Church in Scripture
 - A. The church is a building. Ephesians 2:21-22
 - B. The church is a bride. Revelation 21:9-10
 - C. The church is a body. I Corinthians 12:12
 - D. The church is an army. II Timothy 2:3
 - E. The church is a family. John 1:12

- III. The Importance of the Church in Purpose
The church exists...
 - A. to evangelize the lost and unchurched for salvation and church membership; to give every lost person an opportunity to be saved.
 - B. to edify all Christians, giving them the opportunity to grow to maturity in Christ by developing discipleship skills such as praying, living in the Word, and witnessing.
 - C. to equip Christians to identify and to use their spiritual gifts, natural abilities, and personal interests for meaningful ministry and service.
 - D. to empower Christians for worldwide missions and soul-winning beginning in our community and reaching to the ends of the earth.
 - E. to exalt Christ by encouraging Christians to privately and publicly worship God.

- IV. The Importance of the Church to the Individual Christian.
The church enables the Christian to do and to become what otherwise he or she would never do or become. Together we

are greater than what we are alone. The benefits of belonging to a local New Testament church are as follows:

- A. You are identified as a genuine believer in Jesus Christ.
- B. You are provided a spiritual family to support and encourage you in your walk with Christ.
- C. It gives you a place to discover and use the spiritual gifts which God has given to you in meaningful ministry and service.
- D. You are placed under the spiritual protection and guidance of godly leaders.
- E. You have an opportunity to worship and focus on God which prepares you spiritually and emotionally for the week ahead.
- F. You experience fellowship to help you face life's problems by receiving the support and encouragement of other Christians.
- G. You are given opportunities to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ, being disciplined in your faith by learning to apply the truth of God's Word to your life.
- H. You are given the opportunity to join other Christians in helping fulfill the Great Commission by being involved in missions and evangelism to reach your friends, your family, community, country, nation and world for Christ.

A Christian without a church family is like a child without a family, a football player without a team, a soldier without an army, a trumpet player without a band, a sheep without a flock.

Support the church with your . . .

- 1. Presence
- 2. Prayers
- 3. Pay
- 4. Proclamation