

CBF Discipleship 1.0 – Lesson 8 – The Church

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 2 speaks about the early start of the church.

**Acts 2:37** Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" **38** Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39** For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." **40** And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." **41** Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. **42** And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. **43** Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. **44** Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, **45** and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. **46** So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, **47** praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Based on the verses above, how would you describe the church? (see verses 41, 44)

\_\_\_\_\_

The church is not a building or a specific denomination, but a "body" of believers who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation. With the church, Jesus Christ is the \_\_\_\_\_ (Read Ephesians 1:22-23).

Scripture tells us there is a local church (see Galatians 1:1-2) as well as a universal church of all believers. (see 1 Cor 12:13). And a public display of one's profession of faith in Jesus Christ is baptism (verse 41 above)

The word "church" is "ekklesia" in Greek which means "called out ones" (Matthew 16:18)

- They are "called out" from the world.
- They are not to live for self or for the world, but for the sake of Christ.

When the church comes together, what do they do? (see verses 42, 47 above)

\_\_\_\_\_

Some people may state that since they believe in Jesus Christ, that's enough and they do not need to go to church. Scripture teaches against that.

**Heb 10:24** "and let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, **25** not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another"

As you can see from Hebrews 10:24, we are not to forsake assembling together as a group of believers. Everyone in the body of Christ has a different part to play, each with specific roles and gifts as given by God.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

- What if your foot did not want to be a foot? What’s the impact on your body? \_\_\_\_\_
- By His Spirit we are baptized into \_\_\_\_\_ body (verse 13)
- What does verse 25 suggest relative to our getting along or not? \_\_\_\_\_
- What does verse 28 state about the gifts God has given? \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 4:11 states **“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;**

The church is given a variety of gifts to \_\_\_\_\_ the saints for the work of ministry and for \_\_\_\_\_ (building up) of the body of Christ.

- We come together to be equipped for going out to reach the lost
  - As an example: those with the gift of teaching will teach the body as the Holy Spirit speaks through them
- And come together to encourage each other
  - As an example: those with the gift of mercy may hear, comfort, and pray for someone in the body that is working through a very difficult situation
- Each gift has a part to play, gifted by the Holy Spirit, for the glory of God

A recommended follow up is lessons 17-19 on Gifts within the Building Blocks of Christianity, followed by Stewardship, lessons 20-23.

Summary from today?

Questions to reflect on?	Answer
What truths have you learned today?	
Given what you have learned and/or decided, are there any areas you need to take to the Holy Spirit in prayer?	
What actions should you take in your life to demonstrate what you have learned and committed to?	