

First week: The church, a body “fit and knitted together”

This week we begin our study of church membership by seeing some of the basic relationships in a church. In Acts 2, the apostle Peter preaches the first sermon of the new church. What is the main point of his sermon in Acts 2:36?

How did his listeners react in Acts 2:37? And according to Peter in Acts 2:38-40, what characteristics define those who follow Jesus as Lord and Savior?

According to Acts 2:41-47, what characteristics show that a church is walking in communion with Jesus Christ?

According to Ephesians 5:22-24, what relationship do we the church have with Jesus Christ?

Read Ephesians 5:25-30, too. What has Jesus Christ done for us, His church? And what does He continue to do for us?

Read Ephesians 5:31, a quote from Genesis 2:24 when Yahweh presented Eve to Adam as his wife. What does it say, and what does it mean?

As we see in Ephesians 5:32, this verse doesn't just tell us about marriage: God extends it to tell us of Christ and His church. What does it tell us about this relationship?

Read Ephesians 4:11-16 and note that Christ Himself constitutes the offices in a church according to Ephesians 4:11. Notice too, that everyone mentioned in this verse has something in common: they all communicate God's word. What does this communication of God's word do according to Ephesians 4:12?

Therefore, who do the work of the ministry in a church according to Ephesians 4:12?

And in Ephesians 4:13-16, what is the goal of everyone's participation in the church?

Notice that Paul and Barnabas announce the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ to the people in four cities in what today is the country of Turkey, but they weren't going to stay as pastors: they were only on a mission trip. What did they do in Acts 14:22-23 before leaving the new believers in these four cities?

Notice that the elders have the responsibility of shepherding the church. According to Acts 14:23, was there only one pastor / elder or more?

Read Titus 1:5, a letter of the apostle Paul to one of his co-laborers, Titus. Why did Paul leave him on the island of Crete?

Read Titus 1:5 closely. How does Paul describe a church that does not have elders?

In 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, what should the relationship be like between elders ("those who labor among you and lead you in the Lord and admonish you") and the rest of the church?

What else does he teach about this relationship in Hebrews 13:17?

What does Peter teach us about the relationship between elders and the rest of the congregation in 1 Peter 5:1-7?

Reflecting on the verses you've studied this week, what are some of the characteristics that stand out in a church that walks in a close relationship with Jesus Christ?