

# Faith Baptist Church Discipleship Level 1

Lesson 7. The Doctrine of the Church (The Body of  
Christ)

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## Lesson 7. The Doctrine of the Church

### (The Body of Christ)

There are hundreds of thousands of organized institutions in existence today. However, today, we know from God's Word that he is mainly working through only one institution, and it is the one that he has divinely set up...the church. Therefore, if the Christian desires to be what he should for God he must belong to, and be involved in, a local church.

Since God is the one that set up and ordained the church into existence, it only makes sense that we should look to him for instructions on how the church should operate. He built the church, so he knows what it takes for it to grow and function. God said in his Word that he would be the one to build his church, he simply uses man (born again men) as his tools in the building process.

**Matthew 16:18** And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Being part of a Bible believing local church is not a matter of preference, nor is it an option for the Christian, but it is a command, as we will see in this lesson.

I. What Is “The Church”?

The word “Church” means “the called-out assembly”. The church has been called out and set apart from this world to serve God. It has been called out by salvation, and, unto separation from worldly living.

- **1 Peter 2:9** But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:
- **2 Corinthians 6:17** Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you,

The following are the two ways to look at the church:

- A. All who are saved are part of the church. You can be a member of countless local church assemblies and still go to hell if you’ve never been saved. Salvation makes one a member of “the Body of Christ” through the baptism of the Holy Ghost (1Corinthians 12:13) This is God’s true

church body that will be gathered in Heaven someday.

- **Hebrews 12:22-23** But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,
- **Ephesians 1:22-23** And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.
- **Ephesians 5:23** For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.
- **Ephesians 5:27** That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.
- **Ephesians 5:30** For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

B. A local assembling of saved people is considered a “church”. Though the importance of point “A” above must be understood, the purpose of this lesson is to teach the saved person the importance of the local church. Of the 117 times the word “church” is used in scripture, all but only 10 times it is referring to a local assembly of believers. So, most of the instructions that God gives to the church are designed to exhort you about your commanded responsibilities concerning your local church.

II. What is the purpose of the local church?

A. To reach the lost with the gospel.

- **Acts 1:8** But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

B. To Baptize and teach converts.

- **Matthew 28:19-20** Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever

I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

C. To observe the Lord's Supper.

- **1 Corinthians 11:26** For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

D. To preach the Word of God.

- **1 Timothy 4:13** Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.
- **Titus 2:1** But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:
- **Acts 20:7-9** And upon the first *day* of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight. And there were many lights in the upper chamber, where they were gathered together. And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead.

- **2 Timothy 4:2-4** Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

The church is a place where you should get fed the words of God

- **Acts 20:28** Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.
- **1 Peter 5:2** Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

Therefore, if you are not attending church regularly, you are missing out on much needed nourishment! The purpose of

assembling is to build up and strengthen the church through edification of the preached Word of God. Ephesians 4:11-16

E. To Pray.

- **Acts 4:31** And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

F. To praise the Lord in word and song.

- **Hebrews 2:12** Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.
- **Psalms 35:18** I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people.
- **Psalms 42:4** When I remember these *things*, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holyday.
- **Psalms 66:8** O bless our God, ye people, and make the voice of his praise to be heard:
- **Ephesians 5:19-20** Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and



spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

G. To Fellowship.

- **Acts 2:42** And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Notice how the early church had all seven of these things in Acts 2:41-47

1. They won the lost 2:41
2. They baptized 2:41-42
3. They taught 2:41-42
4. They had the Lord's Supper 2:42
5. They preached 2:41-42
6. They prayed 2:42
7. They praised God 2:47

III. Where Do I Fit In The Church?

A. Most importantly, you should be at every assembly of the church. The Bible tells us that this becomes more and more important as time goes on. Though many people think they can be good Christians at home on their

own, God makes it clear in his Word that it is his desire for his people to assemble faithfully and often. **Hebrews 10:25** Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

- B. Though there are only two positions in the church (Pastor and Deacon, see Philippians 1:1), you should become as active as you can in serving and working along side the other church members in an effort to help the church grow. As a member of the local body of believers, there is a role and function that only you can fulfill (1Corinthians 12:14-27). Be available, get involved, and start working! Get excited about participation in the greatest institution on earth.

Conclusion: Your relationship to the local church will influence all parts of your Christian life. You must find, and attend faithfully a good, Bible believing local church if you are going to grow spiritually and please God.

Questions for Review:

1. What are the 7 purposes of the church?

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2. Who does the Bible say would build the church? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. What does the word “church” mean? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. What is the difference in “The Church”, and “The Local Church”? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Who are the members of “The Church”? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. What do you think your role could be in your local church? \_\_\_\_\_

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