

Why Church?

A. What is a church?

- 1) Webster's definitions:
 - a) A building for public worship, especially Christian.
 - b) The clergy of a religious body.
 - c) A body or organization of religious believers.
 - d) The whole body of Christians.
 - e) A public divine worship.
 - f) The clerical profession.
- 2) Bible Definition
 - a) It is not the building. Acts 14:27; Acts 11:22
 - b) It is the body of believers. Matt 18:17; Eph 3:10; Col 1:24
 - c) The assembling of the Body of Christ (i.e., the believers). Heb 10:25
 - d) The church in the early days of the Acts of the Apostles met in homes. Rom 16:5; 1 Cor 16:19
Col 4:15; Phm 1:2
 - e) We believe in these last days of the Acts of the Apostles the church will again meet in homes. Matt 24:22

B. Why go to church?

- 1) Primary reason is obedience – Do not forsake the assembling of the body. Heb 10:25
- 2) To assemble around the Name of Jesus so that He can be present. Matt 18:20
- 3) To release the corporate anointing. 2 Chr 5:14
- 4) To be fed by the Word of God. Acts 20:28; 2 Tim 3:16
- 5) To receive protection as part of a corporate body including health and needs met. Acts 12:5
- 6) To worship in unity to release the power of God. Acts 1:14; 2:1-4
- 7) To be disciplined in the Word of God. John 8:31-32
- 8) To bring your tithes and offerings. Mal 3:10
- 9) To practice the ministry gifts. Rom 12:6-8
- 10) To participate in ministering the Gospel by edifying those in the church. 1 Cor 14:5,12
- 11) To participate in the ministering the Gospel through outreaches. Phil 4:15; 3 John 1:5,6

C. Purpose of a church

- 1) To provide the Ministry offices to help perfect the body of Christ. Eph 4:7-12
- 2) To preach, teach, heal, cast out demons and raise the dead. Matt 4:23; Matt 10:7,8
- 3) To provide a place for corporate praise and worship. 1 Cor 14:26
- 4) For discipleship thru the teaching of the Word. 2 Tim 2:24-26
- 5) To provide pastoral covering, protection and guidance. Num 6:23-27

D. Church growth

- 1) To move toward the church without spot or wrinkle. Eph 5:25-27
- 2) The primary growth should be spiritual.
 - a) Increasing anointing. John 7:37-39
 - b) Increasing in revelation knowledge. Eph 1:17-21
 - c) Teaching and preaching, increasing from milk to meat to strong meat. Heb 5:12-14
 - d) Developing Christian character thru fostering growth of the Fruit of the Spirit. Gal 5:22-23
 - e) Increasing manifestation of Gifts of the Spirit. 1 Cor 12:7-11
 - f) Saving souls. Mark 16:15-20
- 3) The physical growth should be a result of the spiritual.
 - a) Increasing number of attendees. Acts 2:47
 - b) Increasing health in the regular attendees. Heb 11:6
 - c) Increasing prosperity in the regular attendees. 3 John 1:2
 - d) Increasing need for larger physical resources (e.g., buildings). 1 Chr 4:10; Isa 54:2
 - e) Increasing help to the poor, needy and to the widows and orphans. Jam 1:27; Matt 25:35-36