



**MODULE 2 – NON-NEGOTIABLES OF THE
CHRISTIAN WALK**

Week 1 (11th April 2024): Salvation & Water Baptism

Week 2 (18th April 2024): Baptism of The Holy Spirit

Week 3 (25th April 2024): The Doctrine of Sanctification

Week 4 (2nd May 2024): The Church



THE CHURCH

What do you think about “the Church”?

How would you define it?

Is it ok to not be a part of one (while we love the Lord in our own personal space at home)?



INTRODUCTION

1 Corinthians 10:32 (NLT)

Don't give offense to Jews or Gentiles or the church of God.

Paul divided humanity into Jews, Gentiles, and the Church of God comprising of regenerated Jews & Gentiles.



INTRODUCTION

Which is the “right” church?

an understanding of the first form of church life and government in apostolic days
(which is the early church found in the book of Acts)

come to the Word with open minds, teachable spirits and a willingness to follow
the Holy Spirit as He unfolds truth from God



INTRODUCTION

Jesus Christ (with the help of the Holy Spirit) is in the process of building and preparing His Church

be ready to embrace any or all churches as “still not perfect”

There may be faults, and everyone within the church are learning and are in the process of becoming like Jesus “but are not yet there”.



INTRODUCTION

However, there are few basic doctrines and non-negotiables (which we have studied) purely based on the Word of God, and if these are not followed by any organization or institution or church, then such places should be avoided and may we be far away from the people who promote these.



INTRODUCTION

Today we have multiple churches (local church) and we have the right to choose where we want to go. There is no competition among churches. We just need to be sure of being a part of the church that follows the basic doctrines from the Bible.



MEANING

The word 'church' is derived from the Greek word 'curiake', meaning, "that which relates to the Lord", or "the house of the Lord". Its root idea is that of "**a body of called out ones**", and was translated by the Latin term "Ecclesia", from 2 Greek words, "ek", meaning "out", and "kalein", meaning "to call".

MEANING

Its Hebrew equivalent “Kahal” is found at least 123 times in the Old testament, and was used to describe a congregation, assembly, multitude or company of any kind.

Gen 28:3 – multitude of people (KJV)

Neh 13:1 – congregation of God (KJV)

“Church” occurs over 100 times in the New Testament.



JESUS HIMSELF IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

Matthew 16:18 (KJV)

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.



JESUS HIMSELF IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

Those who deny the essential truth of the deity of Christ cannot be a part of His Church.

In the New Testament, Ecclesia is never used to denote a building or house of assembly, for church buildings never appeared until long after the apostolic age.

Used in a local sense, then, Ecclesia denoted a body of believers meeting in a particular place.



JESUS HIMSELF IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 (Amp)

¹² For just as the body is one and yet has many parts, and all the parts, though many, form [only] one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For by one [Holy] Spirit we were all baptized into one body, [spiritually transformed—united together] whether Jews or Greeks (Gentiles), slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one [Holy] Spirit [since the same Holy Spirit fills each life].



JESUS HIMSELF IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

1 Corinthians 12:27 (Amp)

Now you [collectively] are Christ's body, and individually [you are] members of it [each with his own special purpose and function].

JESUS HIMSELF IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

- ✚ The Church is the Body of Christ
- ✚ It is the body of born-again believers
(who have been joined to Jesus by the Holy Spirit)
- ✚ The Church is worldwide and spread across generations & centuries
– together forming the Bride of Christ
- ✚ It is broken down to smaller bits to accommodate every believer
– giving birth to local churches

JESUS HIMSELF IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

- ✚ It can be a city church like the church in Corinth (1 Cor 1:2) or a church in a house – Rom 16:5a (of Prisca & Aquila)
- ✚ This is the visible body of committed people (Born-again believers)
- ✚ Jesus is committed to building His Church on earth and no one can stop Him (Mat 16:18)
 - ✚ We are the church (we are the dwelling place of God)



JESUS HIMSELF IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

2 Corinthians 6:16 (NLT)

And what union can there be between God's temple and idols? For **we are the temple of the living God**. As God said:

"I will live in them
and walk among them.
I will be their God,
and they will be my people."



**THE EARLY CHURCH (BELIEVERS OF LORD JESUS CHRIST)
DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO THE LOCAL CHURCH AND LIVED A
LIFE THAT WAS SHARED WITH OTHER BELIEVERS IN CHRIST**

Acts 2:42-47 (Amp)

⁴² They were continually *and* faithfully devoting themselves to the instruction of the apostles, and to fellowship, to eating meals together and to prayers.



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Acts 2:42-47 (Amp)

⁴³ A sense of awe was felt by everyone, and many wonders and signs (attesting miracles) were taking place through the apostles.

⁴⁴ And all those who had believed [in Jesus as Savior] were together and had all things in common [considering their possessions to belong to the group as a whole].



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Acts 2:42-47 (Amp)

⁴⁵ And they *began* selling their property and possessions and were sharing the proceeds with all [the other believers], as anyone had need.

⁴⁶ Day after day they met in the temple [area] continuing with one mind, and breaking bread in various private homes. They were eating their meals together with joy and generous hearts,



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Acts 2:42-47 (Amp)

⁴⁷ praising God *continually*, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord kept adding to their number daily those who were being saved.

PEOPLE (ALL THOSE WHO HAD BELIEVED IN JESUS AS THEIR LORD & SAVIOR) IN THE CHURCH WERE:

- + continually and faithfully devoting themselves to the instruction of the apostles (obeying the leaders and following the teachings of Christ)
 - + continually and faithfully devoting themselves to fellowship (not leaving any opportunity to meet brothers and sisters in Christ)
- + continually and faithfully devoting themselves to eating meals together with joy and generous hearts (sharing closed spaces and deeper bonds between fellow members)



PEOPLE (ALL THOSE WHO HAD BELIEVED IN JESUS AS THEIR LORD & SAVIOR) IN THE CHURCH WERE:

- ✚ continually and faithfully devoting themselves to prayers (being aware of everyone's needs; standing with each other at all times)
- ✚ full of awe (A sense of admiration was felt by everyone towards the Lord and His people and His works and their calling following into works)
- ✚ experiencing many signs and wonders and witnessing miracles that were taking place through the apostles (leadership) – which was being transferred from them to the people (as when the Holy Spirit came upon them, they also began to experience being used by God in mighty ways)

PEOPLE (ALL THOSE WHO HAD BELIEVED IN JESUS AS THEIR LORD & SAVIOR) IN THE CHURCH WERE:

- ✚ together and had all things in common
(they considered each other as their own family)
- ✚ were helping the other believers if anyone had a need (to the extent of selling their property and possessions and consequently sharing the proceeds)
- ✚ meeting daily (in the church) having one mind, one vision (the Great Commission), and even doing the same in house-churches
(breaking bread in various private homes)

PEOPLE (ALL THOSE WHO HAD BELIEVED IN JESUS AS THEIR LORD & SAVIOR) IN THE CHURCH WERE:

✚ praising God continually

✚ having favor with all the people
(receiving favor in the eyes of God and of men)

✚ increasing in every way

as the Lord kept adding to their number daily those who were being saved

THE CHURCH

- ✚ is a lifestyle
- ✚ not an activity
- ✚ not a religious club you opt to join
- ✚ it is God's family to which you were added
- ✚ It is an Organism with One Head (Jesus)
- ✚ and we being its body (many parts) having life



THE CHURCH

There is a **Universal Church** – which is the **Body of Christ** – every believer is a part of this Church – and Jesus is coming back to take this Church with Him as His Bride. This Universal Church can be broken down into **Local churches which are smaller groups** of people sharing the same geographic locations and committed to one another fulfilling the God given calling and vision given to them as a whole.



CHURCH IS THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

There is a oneness in Christ and the Church experiencing a personal relationship and commitment together.

Ephesians 5:22-32 (Amp)

Marriage Like Christ and the Church

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

- ✚ Christ is Head of the Church
- ✚ The Church is subject to Christ
- ✚ We are members (parts) of His body
 - ✚ We and Jesus become One
- ✚ Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her
 - ✚ He sanctifies the Church

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

- ✚ He nourishes the Church
- ✚ He protects the Church
- ✚ He cherishes the Church
- ✚ Jesus will present the Church to Himself (and to God)
- ✚ On that day, the Church will be in glorious splendor, without spot or wrinkle, and she would be holy [set apart for God] and blameless



PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

- ❖ Church is the representative of Christ.
- ❖ **It carries the mandate to fulfil the Great Commission.**
 - ❖ Commit to this body (family) of believers.
- ❖ It becomes a place where we learn how to become the true disciples of Jesus.
 - ❖ We begin to grow within the church.



PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

- ❖ It becomes a place where God gives us the opportunity to use our gifts and talents to serve Him and to serve other believers.
- ❖ Once a part of a church, we are protected and blessed in the covering of leaders that are appointed by God over that local body.
 - ❖ It gives us a boundary, yet it does not control us!



PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

Upward towards God:

- To have an intimate relation with Jesus through the Holy Spirit,
 - Giving glory to the Father
 - Develop our faith in God
 - Be led by the Spirit



PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

Upward towards God:

- Worship in Spirit and in Truth
- Fall more in love with Him day by day
 - Be obedient to Christ
- Wait in eager expectation for the Second Coming of Jesus



PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

Inward towards each other:

- To become disciples of Jesus
 - Grow in the Lord
 - Pray for one another
 - Submit to one another
 - Minister to others



PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

Ephesians 4:1-4 (Amp)



PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

Outward towards the world:

- ✓ To reach out to people and share the Gospel of Jesus with them
 - ✓ Pray for them
 - ✓ Support the poor and needy
- ✓ Testify what God is doing in your life



PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

Outward towards the world:

Matthew 28:19-20a (Amp)

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations [help the people to learn of Me, believe in Me, and obey My words], baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you;



GOVERNMENT OF THE CHURCH

- ❑ The Father appointed Christ as the Head of the Church
 - ❑ He gave gifts to the Church through the Holy Spirit
- ❑ He has ordained the Five-fold Ministry to equip the saints so that the work of the Lord can be carried out



GOVERNMENT OF THE CHURCH

Ephesians 4:11-13

- APOSTLES
- PROPHETS
- EVANGELISTS
- PASTORS
- TEACHERS



IN CONCLUSION

- ✚ Jesus has commissioned us, as members of His church, to make disciples and enable them to grow in the context of the local part of the body of Christ, i.e. the local church.
- ✚ The church will only grow in quantity and quality as each member pulls their weight and fulfils the function God has given them. Then it will become the body which is truly the expression of Jesus on earth.



IN CONCLUSION

- ✦ Jesus is the Head of the church and He intends that His church will come to a place of unity and submission to His rulership.
- ✦ The members of the body of Christ are all inter-related and they are necessary for the proper functioning of the worldwide church.
- ✦ For a disciple of Jesus to be fulfilled, he needs to recognise that his fulfilment will only occur when he finds his place in the local body of Christ, and he commits himself to seeing through what God asks him to do in that place.



IN CONCLUSION

- ✚ God has no favourites. He does not rate one ministry higher than another. He just expects us, as His disciples, to serve Him by obeying His will, no matter the cost.
- ✚ We cannot reach spiritual maturity on our own because we need the help of other Christians to grow into Christlikeness (Eph 4:11-16).



IN CONCLUSION

- ✚ Positive attitudes within the body of Christ bring life, peace and harmony; but negative attitudes bring death, disturbance and disharmony. The Lord desires that every member of the body of Christ be a positive expression of His own life, nature and character.
- ✚ We should love and forgive each other so that fellowship between believers can be established and maintained.



IN CONCLUSION

- ✚ If we do not pass on to others what we have received from God, we will begin to fall into spiritual decline.
- ✚ The human body, with its millions of cells and members all working together in harmony, unity and life, illustrates the harmony, unity and life which is to flow in the church, the body of Christ. In the body, every cell, every member, lives for the other. We need to do the same in the body of Christ by caring for one another, learning to appreciate one another and loving one another.



IN CONCLUSION

- ✚ We need to be committed both to God and to one another in the body of Christ. This means we have to be willing to pay the cost of such a commitment, because true fellowship between believers is a sacrifice (Hebrews 13:16).
- ✚ As we show love, kindness and practical help to others, it is as if we are doing it for Christ Jesus (Matthew 25:31-46).

IN CONCLUSION

- ✚ Jesus is the Head of the church and He purposes to function through it because it is His body on earth. We, therefore, need to submit to His Headship and to those whom the Lord places over us.
 - ✚ All leaders should be servants of the body of Christ for Jesus' sake (2 Corinthians 4:5).
- ✚ Jesus appoints leadership in the church to represent His authority, continue His ministry and express His life.



IN CONCLUSION

- ✚ The members of God's church need to be loyal and committed to their pastors who are responsible for them before God.
- ✚ When we submit to Godly leadership, we are protected from the enemy, because the leadership will be a spiritual covering for us.
- ✚ A disciple of Jesus needs to live a disciplined life in order to get anywhere with God.



IN CONCLUSION

- ✚ The writer of the majority of Proverbs, King Solomon, suggests that we read Proverbs to attain or acquire discipline in life (Prov 1:1-3).
- ✚ Church discipline arising out of a motivation of love keeps the church in a place of righteousness.



IN CONCLUSION

✚ 2 Timothy 1:7 (Amp)

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity *or* cowardice *or* fear, but [He has given us a spirit] of power and of love and of sound judgment *and* personal discipline [abilities that result in a calm, well-balanced mind and self-control].



IN CONCLUSION

✚ **Hebrews 12:11 (Amp)**

For the time being no discipline brings joy, but seems sad *and* painful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness [right standing with God and a lifestyle and attitude that seeks conformity to God's will and purpose].



IN CONCLUSION

✚ **Colossians 3:16-17 (Amp)**

¹⁶ Let the [spoken] word of Christ have its home within you [dwelling in your heart and mind—permeating every aspect of your being] as you teach [spiritual things] and admonish *and* train one another with all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

¹⁷ Whatever you do [no matter what it is] in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus [and in dependence on Him], giving thanks to God the Father through Him.