The Church: Fellowship and Worship

1. Why is it important for a Christian to learn about the church?
   - Because in being saved we have become members of the body of Christ, His church. We therefore have need to learn how to exist as a healthy productive member of that body.

The Church Universal –
1. The Body of Christ – The Christian is a member of the body of Christ. A universal group of people united by true saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. This unity of believers transcends all ethnic, denominational, or geographical barriers. We are united by our “like precious faith” in Christ. Each person as a member therefore, has a unique and important role in the body which has been determined by Christ.

   1 Corinthians 12:18 - 18 But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. NIV

   Revelation 5:9-10 - 9 And they sang a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. 10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.” NIV

The Local Church –
1. The need for a “local church” – It would be entirely impossible for all the Christians to be edified properly without the benefit of small group ministry. Can you imagine trying to pack all the Christians in ABQ, NM into one place for the purpose of fellowship? Further, because of the relational nature of Christianity, it is vital for us to be able to develop effective and productive relationships with other members of the body. Thus the need for smaller groups.

   2. Elders/Pastors – In the scripture the elder, pastor, overseer, shepherd, bishop, etc… all refer to the same person. Their responsibilities are explained in the following scriptures;

   The Pastoral epistles were written for elder instruction - 1 Tim, 2 Tim, Titus

   Acts 20:17,28 17 From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. 28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

   3. Deacons – A deacon is a servant to the body of Christ who fills many various works and services to the body. Their responsibilities are explained in the following scriptures;

   1 Tim 3:8-13, Acts 6:1-6

Fellowship –
1. Encourage, admonish, serve, care for – These describe the purpose of Christian fellowship. We, being members of God’s family are to care for one another in a manner worthy of Christ. We therefore;

   A. Encourage – Heb 3:13, 10:25, 1 Thes 5:11, Eph 4:29
   B. Admonish – Col 1:28, 1 Cor 4:14, 1 Thes 5:12, 2 Tim 4:2
   C. Serve – Gal 5:13, 1 John 3:16-18, Rom 15:1-2,
   D. Care for – Gal 6:2, 1 Thes 5:14, 1 Cor 13:4-7
Worship –

1. **God is to be worshipped** - We are commanded to praise the Lord throughout the Scripture. Indeed it is the greatest of all commandments that "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 "This is the great and foremost commandment. (Matt 22:37-39) We are commanded to love Him because He knows that this is where we will find our utmost happiness and fulfillment, in loving Him! Indeed it is the purpose for which we were made!

   Deut 6:13 - 13 You shall **fear only the LORD your God;** and **you shall worship Him,** and swear by His name. NAS

   Revelation 14:7 - 7 and he said with a loud voice, "Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; and **worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters,**” NAS

   Revelation 4:11 - 11 "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.” NIV

Application -

1. Teach your disciple that it is vital to be a productive member of the body.
2. Teach your disciple that it is imperative to fellowship with other believers in order to fulfill our God given purpose.
3. Teach your disciple that it is absolutely vital to worship God. This is the purpose for which we were made! Further that all that they do in life is an act of worship to God. Romans 12:1-2

Q & A – Anyone?

Recommended Reading:

John MacArthur – Ashamed of the Gospel
John Owen – The Spirit and the Church
Alexander Strauch – Biblical Eldership
John Piper – The Pleasures of God

*This is an outline only and made to compliment the Fundamentals of the Faith manual.*