

Your New Life

Key Verses:

Ephesians 2:19 – *So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God...*

Matthew 16:18 – *... on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it.*

The Objective:

This lesson will help you understand why Jesus established the church and how you are to function within it. Your spiritual growth is directly linked to the good relationships and ministry opportunities you will find in the local church.

Understanding the Church

1) The church is the family of God.

Ephesians 2:19 – *So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God...*

- a) When you received the new birth through faith, you not only acquired a new heart, you were also _____ into a new family.
- b) The church operates very much in the spirit like a healthy family does in the _____.
 - i) _____ and _____ in the faith: In a healthy church, there are spiritual fathers (and mothers) who help the Heavenly Father in the training and equipping of spiritual sons and daughters.

1 Corinthians 4:15-17 – *For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the Gospel. v. 16 I urge you, then, be imitators of me. v. 17 That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church.*



- ii) _____ and _____ in the faith: In a healthy church, you will find brothers and sisters who love you and accept you as their own.

1 Timothy 5:1, 2 – *Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, v.2 older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.*

- iii) Spiritual _____: The role of true disciples of Jesus Christ is to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19). Consequently, we must assume that bringing spiritual children into the world is a critical aspect of our family calling to be fruitful and multiply (Genesis 1:28) in the natural and the spiritual.

2) The church is the body of Christ.

- a) The term “church” literally means “_____ of the _____.” The church is not a building, but rather a collection of people who, together, are formed into one unified and functioning body.

1 Corinthians 12:27 – *Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.*

b) Four Important Elements of the Church Body

- i) Christ Jesus Himself is the _____ of the church.

Ephesians 5:23 – *For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, His body...*

- ii) God _____ the _____ in the body as He chooses.

1 Corinthians 12:18 – *But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.*

- iii) Every member has a _____ and is valued the same.

1 Corinthians 12:21, 22 – *The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” v.22 On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable [necessary]...*

iv) God desires _____ and mutual _____ to one another in His body.

1 Corinthians 12:25 – *...that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.*

3) The Church is a fellowship of the Spirit.

Acts 2:42 – And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Philippians 2:1, 2 NKJV – Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, v.2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

The fellowship of the Spirit provides many blessings through the church.

a) The Holy Spirit brings _____ through the fellowship of the Spirit.

i) The word fellowship in the original Greek language is the word koinonia, and it means “_____” or “_____ in _____.”

ii) This word, koinonia describes how Christians should live, that is, as a community of people who are like-minded and are willing to sacrifice for the good of the family.

b) The Holy Spirit brings _____ through the fellowship of the Spirit.

Romans 15:30 – I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf...

c) The Holy Spirit brings _____ through the fellowship of the Spirit.

Galatians 3:26-28 – *For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. v.27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. v.28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

- d) The Holy Spirit brings _____ through the fellowship of the Spirit.

Hebrews 13:17 – *Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.*

- e) The Holy Spirit brings _____ through the fellowship of the Spirit.

2 Timothy 4:1-4 – *I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: v.2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. v.3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, v.4 and will turn away from listening to the truth...*

- f) The Holy Spirit brings _____ through the fellowship of the Spirit.

i) Direction comes from the solid _____ of the Word.

ii) Direction comes from the collective _____ of the Spirit.

iii) Direction comes from being fully submitted to the _____ of Christ.

Ephesians 1:22, 23 – *And he [God] put all things under his feet and gave him [Jesus Christ] as head over all things to the church, v.23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.*

True disciples of Jesus must learn to have fellowship and to build ties of friendship by getting involved in the activities of the church. They understand that it is not sufficient just go to the services or to the congregational meetings. If

we participate only in the big meetings, our fellowship will be superficial.

Make an investment in people. Find time to spend with others. Your church is your new family. Don't neglect one another; instead find a way to encourage the body of Christ.

Hebrews 10:24, 25 – *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, v.25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

REFLECT

1. Name one way that Christian Life Church has added value to your life.
2. How can an individual benefit from having a spiritual family (spiritual fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, and children)?
3. Pastor Ron taught that “every member has a function...” What do you see as your function at CLC?
4. In a healthy church, sometimes correction is part of the discipleship training experience. How do you receive correction without getting offended?
5. How can a local church provide protection for you?

ACT

Write down the name of one person you will invite to church with you next week. Next, write down the day you will call them and commit to following through.