

STUDY & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ❖ When you think of the church as being a "community of true believers for all time", how does it affect the way you think of yourself as an individual Christian?
- ❖ How is it that you can tell your life is "mastered by Jesus"? What do you think is the evidence of this?
- ❖ Ephesians 1:22-23 reads "and he put all things under his feet and gave him the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all". What part of this Scripture stands out to you? Why? What do you think it means what it says "the fullness of him who fills all in all".
- ❖ Why is it important to God that the members of the church know they are filled with the Holy Spirit?
- ❖ In the gospel of John, Jesus said "I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the helper will not come to you. But if I go I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment... he will guide you into all truth... he will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you." (John 16: 7-8, 13-14). What does Jesus describe as the benefits and the Holy Spirit's arrival?
- ❖ Why must we, the church, be "managed by God's words"? How active are you in allowing the Scriptures to direct your life?
- ❖ How might you reflect God's glory and make a "connection" for people who do not belong to the church?
- ❖ What was the most meaningful insight for you this weekend at church? Why?

FOUNDATIONS

July 17 & 18, 2010

"The Church"

Matthew 16:13-18 (ESV) ...Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

What is the church?

* The church is the _____ of _____
_____ for _____.

Hebrews 12:23 (ESV) ...and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect.

Who is the church?

1. Those that are _____.

Mark 1:16-20 (NIV) As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Bible Versions used: ESV-English Standard Version; NIV-New International; TEV-Today's English; CEV-Contemporary English;

2. Those that are _____.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 (NIV) Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

1 Corinthians 12:13 (ESV) For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

3. Those that are _____.

Matthew 26:54, 56 (ESV) "But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so? ...all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled."

Ephesians 5:26-27 (ESV) ...that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

1 Timothy 4:13 (ESV) Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.

Right _____

Right _____

1 Timothy 3:14-15 (ESV) I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, ¹⁵ if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.

Right _____

Revelation 2:4-5 (ESV) But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.

4. Those that are _____.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (TEV) I may be able to speak the languages of human beings and even of angels, but if I have no love, my speech is no more than a noisy gong or a clanging bell. I may have the gift of inspired preaching; I may have all knowledge and understand all secrets; I may have all the faith needed to move mountains—but if I have no love, I am nothing. I may give away everything I have, and even give up my body to be burned—but if I have no love, this does me no good.

Why does it matter?

Acts 20:28-32 (ESV) Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

* Because the church is _____

Ephesians 3:21 (ESV) To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

* Because the church makes _____

Matthew 28:18-20 (CEV) Jesus came to them and said: I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth! Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to do everything I have told you. I will be with you always, even until the end of the world.

* Because you _____

1 Peter 2:9 (ESV) But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.