



Membership Class #2: “Why is the Church so Important?”

I. The Nature of the Church

Matthew 16

18 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.

1. A community of people in covenant with God, (1 Timothy 3:15)

2. gathering for the purpose of worshipping him, (1 Peter 2: 9)

3. being nourished by his grace, (Ephesians 3: 14-19)

4. and being equipped to advance his kingdom. (Matthew 16: 18; Ephesian 4: 11-13)

Implications:

- 1.
- 2.

II. The Origin of the Church

Ephesians 2:

11 Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands-- 12 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Implications:

- 1.
- 2.

III. The Immensity of the Church

Genesis 22:17

I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore.

Implications:

- 1.
- 2.

IV. The Corruption of the Church

1 Corinthians 1: 2

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Implications:

- 1.
- 2.

V. The Glory of the Church

Ephesians 3:

8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, 10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.... 20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Implications:

- 1.
- 2.

VI. The Importance of the Church in Our Salvation

1 Corinthians 12: 12-14

12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 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. 14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many.

Implications:

- 1.
- 2.