

BASIC CHRISTIANITY – The Christian and the Church - Lesson 4

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

1. After obeying God through faith, repentance, confession, and baptism, how does one become a member of the church? “And the LORD added to the church daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:47; Colossians 1:13)

(46) So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, (47) praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. (Acts 2:46–47)

He (God) has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love... (Colossians 1:13)

2. What’s in a name? From the following passages, list the terms used to describe the church:
 - a. Acts 20:28 – The church of GOD

Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. (Acts 20:28)

- b. Romans 16:16 – The churches of CHRIST

Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you. (Romans 16:16)

- c. 1 Corinthians 1:2 – The church of GOD which is at CORINTH
(Designates the location of the congregation)

To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours... (1 Corinthians 1:2)

- d. Hebrews 12:23 - The church of the FIRSTBORN

To the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect... (Hebrews 12:23)

- e. Colossians 1:13 – The KINGDOM of the SON

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love... (Colossians 1:13)

- f. Ephesians 4:12 – The BODY of CHRIST

For the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ... (Ephesians 4:12)

3. Discuss the popularity of present day “hobby” churches (i.e. The Biker’s Church; The Cowboy Church)
 - a. *List possible church names based on personal pastimes of lifestyles.*
 - i. *Examples: Video Game Church; Woodworker’s Church; Fisherman’s Church; Big Game Hunter’s Church; Sewing Church; Youth Baseball Church*
 - ii. *What about churches named after nationalities or ethnic groups?*
 - b. *Discuss the purpose or mission of the church as described by the Scriptures.*
 - i. *To make disciples - Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16*
 - ii. *To worship and serve God – John 4:23-24; Luke 9:23; Luke 17:10*
 - iii. *To love and serve mankind – Matthew 25:34-40; Galatians 6:10*

4. “For by ONE Spirit we were all baptized into ONE body (church).” (1 Corinthians 12:13)

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

5. In recent years the phrase “church family” has become popular. According to the following passages, determine whether this is an acceptable way to describe the church.
(1 Timothy 3:14-15; Hebrews 3:4; Ephesians 3:15; 1 John 3:1)

(14) These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; (15) but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. (1 Timothy 3:14–15)

For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God. (Hebrews 3:4)

(14) For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, (15) from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named... (Ephesians 3:14–15)

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. (1 John 3:1)

MY WEEKLY CHALLENGE: NEW DISCOVERIES THROUGH DAILY BIBLE READING

6. What new thing did I learn from my daily bible reading last week? _____
7. List the compelling reasons that I should read and study the bible daily: (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
(1) DOCTRINE (2) REPROOF (3) CORRECTION (4) INSTRUCTION in RIGHTEOUSNESS

(16) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, (17) that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16–17)

ABOUT THE BIBLE:

8. The first five books of the Old Testament are commonly called the books of MOSES.
 - a. These books are also known as the “Pentateuch” meaning “five books”.

JEWELS FROM JAMES:

9. Every Christian should be swift to HEAR slow to SPEAK and slow to WRATH. (1:19-20)
 - a. Acting out my anger does not produce the RIGHTEOUSNESS of God.

(19) So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; (20) for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. (James 1:19–20)

In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise. (Proverbs 10:19)

(26) “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, (27) nor give place to the devil. (Ephesians 4:26–27)

- b. *Righteous indignation, also called righteous anger. One commentator notes that “...on many occasions, in the management of families, in reproving sin, and even in ordering their temporal concerns”, anger is permitted of Christians.”*

10. The implanted word of God is able to SAVE my SOUL. (1:21)

Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. (James 1:21)

(8) But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. (9) Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, (10) and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him... (Colossians 3:8–10)

(1) Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, (2) by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:1–2)

11. Christians are to be DOERS of the word and not HEARERS only. (1:22-25)
 - a. Therefore Christianity is a religion of ACTION!

(22) But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. (23) For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; (24) for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. (25) But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. (James 1:22–25)

“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say? (Luke 6:46)

So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, ‘We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.’ ” (Luke 17:10)

- b. *Christians must invest themselves in the work of the Lord, not as a means to gain God favor (grace), forgiveness, or salvation, but as a reaction to those blessings provided to the obedient servant of the Lord (Matthew 25:14-30)*

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

12. _____