

## **The Church and It's Mission**

Matthew 16:18

**Purpose:** To define the church and its mission and to help each one of us see the importance of our part in it.

### **Defining the Church**

*The church is a local gathering of believers, who are joined together in love as family, worshiping together and serving one another, representing Christ to the world.*

#### **1. The church is a local gathering of believers.**

*"The Bible clearly commands every believer to be deeply involved in the lives of other believers.... The primary context in which God wants this involvement to take place is the local body of believers, and so the commitment called for is also a commitment to the church.... We must also commit ourselves to a local or visible group of God's people.... the New Testament does not contain even a hint of someone who was truly saved but not a part of a local church."* Wayne Mack & David Swavely

#### **2. The church is believers who are joined together!**

*"Biblical religion is inescapably corporate. . . Scripture knows nothing of solitary religion."* Bruce Milne

Ephesians 2:19-22; 4:16

*"Many Christians have been infected with the most virulent virus of modern American life, what sociologist Robert Bellah calls radical individualism."* Chuck Colson

*"It is necessary to stress that the New Testament never countenances the possibility of a believer living his Christian life apart from the context of the local church."* G.W. Kirby

#### **3. The church is believers who are calling on the Lord in worship and prayer together.**

Acts 2:42

1 Corinthians 1:2

**4. The church is believers who are serving one another.**

Galatians 5:13

Romans 12:10

Philippians 2:3-7

**5. The church is believers... representing Christ to the world.**

1 Thessalonians 1:6-8

John 13:34-35

**The Church's Mission**

1. The Church's Mission Grows out of Jesus' Mission

Psalm 127:1

Matthew 16:18

2. The Mission of the Church

Matt 28:18-20

*Disciple-making, not Decision-getting!*

3. Accomplishing the Mission

We are a God-dependent people, and that dependency is expressed in prayer.

*A brief survey of the early church's life of prayer demonstrates that we cannot survive without prayer. Devotion to prayer turns common people into uncommon servants of God. Paul Tautges*