

## LESSON 14 – THE CHURCH

**MEMORIZE:** "FROM HIM THE WHOLE BODY, JOINED AND HELD TOGETHER BY EVERY SUPPORTING LIGAMENT, GROWS AND BUILDS ITSELF UP IN LOVE, AS EACH PART DOES ITS WORK." EPHESIANS 4:16, NIV

### INTRODUCTION

You may have heard the word "church" all your life. Perhaps you considered it to be the building where you attended services; but it is much more than that. The word "church" comes from the Greek *ekklesia*, which means "called out." It is the mystical body of Christ of which He is the head (Ephesians 1:22-23). God has called us out of this present world of darkness into a glorious relationship with Him and with other believers who have become our brothers and sisters in the Lord. The true church of Jesus Christ is a spiritual building made up of believers whose bodies have become the holy habitation of God (Ephesians 2:21-22; 1 Corinthians 3:9).

### WE ARE "CALLED OUT"

Read the following Scriptures and complete each sentence:

1. We are called according to His \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 8:28).
2. God has called us to \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Corinthians 7:15).
3. He has called us by His \_\_\_\_\_ (Galatians 1:15).
4. He has called us to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (moral excellence) (2 Peter 1:3).
5. God did not call us unto \_\_\_\_\_ but unto \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Thessalonians 4:7).
6. We have been called out of \_\_\_\_\_ and into His \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Peter 2:9).
7. God has called us to be \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Peter 1:15).
8. We have been called out to become the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (1 John 3:1).

## THE CHURCH BODY

1. In Ephesians 2:20-22, the church body is likened to a building built to be a \_\_\_\_\_ of God through the Spirit.
2. "Now ye are the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ in particular" (1 Corinthians 12:27).
3. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-14. These verses tell us that the body is made up of many \_\_\_\_\_. And God has placed you in the body as it has pleased Him.
4. "So, we, being many, are \_\_\_\_\_ body in Christ, and every one members \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_" (Romans 12:5).

## EARLY CHURCH MEETINGS

The "church" of the Old Testament came together for worship and edification in the man-made tent known as the Tabernacle and later in the temple and other buildings known as synagogues. The New Testament "church," however, had no designated buildings for the first three centuries. And it was in these first three centuries that it experienced its most rapid growth. It often met in halls for teaching and celebrations, but the life of the church was nurtured in their homes.

1. The following Scriptures illustrate that the church assembled in one of two places, the temple or someone's home. Look up the following Scriptures and indicate where they met and what they did:

	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Temple</u>	<u>House</u>
a)	Acts 2:46	_____	_____	_____
b)	Acts 3:1	_____	_____	_____
c)	Acts 5:20	_____	_____	_____
d)	Acts 5:42	_____	_____	_____
e)	Acts 12:12	_____	_____	_____
f)	Acts 16:40	_____	_____	_____
g)	Acts 20:20	_____	_____	_____

- h) Psalm 27:4 \_\_\_\_\_
- i) Isaiah 2:3 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Where did the church meet in each of the following Scriptural references (1 Corinthians 16:19; Colossians. 4:15; Philemon 2; Romans 16:5)?
- \_\_\_\_\_

## **SMALL GROUPS**

No man can minister to thousands effectively; likewise, the pastor of a large church cannot effectively minister to all the individual needs of the congregation and relies on the members to minister and to help one another.

1. Paul told Timothy to pass on his knowledge to others in 2 Timothy 2:2, "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men..." What will these men do in turn? \_\_\_\_\_
2. When a body of believers gather together in a home, should there be only one designated individual to minister (1 Corinthians 14:26)? \_\_\_\_\_
3. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 says we are to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ one another.

## **EIGHT PURPOSES OF SMALL GROUPS**

1. To make disciples: discipleship is a process by demonstration.
2. To develop a prayer life: prayer is used continually to help build up the small group.
3. For fellowship: a productive, positive, caring and sharing takes place.
4. To manifest the gifts: saints are given opportunity to minister through the Spirit.
5. To allow everyone to minister: everyone can edify.
6. A greater measure of needs is met: 90 percent of personal needs are provided through a small group.
7. Souls can be saved daily: church only happens on special days; small group can occur every day.
8. To evangelize: a small group puts its emphasis on reaching others.

## **SUMMARY**

It is important to be involved in church activities. We should gather in the sanctuary for corporate worship to hear the Word preached by the pastor and to be strengthened by prayer. This will help equip us for our service to the Lord during the week. It is also vital that we get together in small intimate groups where we can minister to and encourage one another. Then we can work together to reach out to those who have not yet made a decision to make Jesus Christ Lord of their life.