

Topical

The Household of God

Ephesians 2:19-22

<p>What is church?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building, denom, earn pts w God? <p>Jesus uses <u>ekklesia</u> (gathering not destination)</p> <p>All “churches” are not Jesus’ “church”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church’s Chicken 	<p>Your experience with church</p> <p>Maybe you don’t go because</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You’d catch on fire, bldg burn down • People are hypocrites (you’ve been hurt) <p>How do we know what it should be? What does the <u>Bible</u> (Jesus) say?</p>
<p>[Pray]</p> <p>OT Temples, Shekinah Glory, Veil Torn</p> <p>Acts 7:48-50 - "However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands, as the prophet says: 'Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. What house will you build for Me? says the LORD, Or what is the place of My rest? Has My hand not made all these things?'</p> <p>Ephesians 2:19-22 - Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building,</p>	<p>being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.</p> <p>Psalm 127:1 - Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it;</p> <p>The Church is the Household of God</p> <p>FUBU? FHBH by Him, for Him - out of us, full of Him</p> <p>Even if you wanted to, try... It’s only really if it’s His <i>Church planting, advertising, doing things in the flesh to attract/keep</i></p>
<p>Growth <u>itself</u> is not a sign of health Cancer, weeds</p> <p>Pruning and weight loss are healthy, too</p>	<p>Spirit leads, flesh follows</p> <p>Wheat v Tares - call out obvious. Be healthy yourself and find a healthy church</p>

Who, What, Why, How, Where?

Acts 2:42 - And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' **doctrine** and **fellowship**, in the breaking of **bread**, and in **prayers**.

- **Who** - the **Believers** in Jesus - Jew & Gentile (salvation is for all, but church is for the saved)
- **What** - Get Together in **fellowship**, **food/communion**, **Bible study**, **prayer/worship** (full life)

- **Why** - Jesus saved us, raised us (how could we not)
- **How** - Spirit leads & draws us (are we following him?)
- **Where** - **Wherever** (if you're in love, does it matter where the date is?
Home is where the heart is?)

We're spoiled!

*NY - let us know when you have a building
Around the world - meet wherever they can
and not get arrested*

**Is the church just the gathering?
Is Jesus only "in the midst of 2+?"**
(out of context!)

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

**God dwells in each believer
via the Holy Spirit**

Para, en, epi

Individually, built together

into the larger temple of God,
complete bride of Christ

Together alive, dead apart

A living Spiritual body, not a dead building

What makes up a body? Parts

Guy in 80s with the outfit

Bible calls parts "members"

Members of a Body = Membership?

Membership, no, Marriage, yes

One man, one woman

a picture of the church and Jesus

**You know your body
from someone else's right?**

Hand fall asleep? Numb from medicine?

Do I have to remind my body it's mine?

**Official membership isn't wrong,
but it does tend to create burden**

*As a Christian, a husband, a dad, a pastor,
my chief desire is that the people I care for
Jesus personally and follow Him*

If following Him, everything else is ok

Adam and Eve, Jesus and Church

<p>Following Him? He'll lead you to the right body! You'll be fed, fit in, be a part/serve</p>	<p>God's ultimate temple/house/body? <u>Jesus Himself!</u></p>
<p>God's House is a Spiritual House</p> <p>1 Peter 2:4-5 - Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Isaiah 56:7 - Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices Will be accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations."</p> <p>Looks can be deceiving! Spiritual eyes see the spiritual church.</p>	<p><i>Jesus said we must worship in "Spirit and in Truth"</i></p> <p>Church is about worshipping God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not in ritual, but in spirit • Not in traditions of men, but the Word of God <p>Traditions can be good, fun, healthy <i>Christmas morning breakfast</i> <i>Wedding ceremonies</i></p> <p>Rituals are lifeless when they replace relationship <i>Communion as a ritual or relationship?</i></p> <p>It's God's house - He should be comfortable in - and so should you!</p>
<p>What makes a house a home? A family living inside it!</p> <p>A place where love is A home is designed to care for the family</p> <p>House vs home A house has furniture a home has laughter A house has food, a home has dinner A house has rooms, a home has memories A house is a shelter, a home is for rest A house is a place to come home to</p> <p>Church should be your home-away-from home - you should feel at home there! <i>If you like your home, don't you want to be there?</i></p>	<p>"Make yourself at home" You're welcome, make others welcome</p> <p>Space should be clean, warm, inviting Cared for, not idolized <i>Carpet in 60s CC</i></p> <p>Families and homes come in all shapes and sizes</p> <p>Mega church or home church? Which is better? Neither.</p> <p><i>As long as it's lifting Jesus High</i> <i>And loving others nigh</i></p>

How would your life be different if you were homeless?

Dangers? Health? Personality? Ability?

Ever lived alone?

No roommates, working from home, wendy's

We grow weary and weird on our own

begin to smell and not know it

Having friends over is good

at least it causes you to clean the house a little more, get showered and dressed

The enemy wants you to be alone

Covid, China, internet

The Lord wants you with His family in His house!

We all crave it, try to find it Elsewhere

Cheers theme song

Not the cringe "corporate work family"

"Pride"

Church is A place to worship, but not the only

you should worship everywhere - car, shower, closet, kitchen, golf course

It's the place/way we worship together -

can be in the building or in a home - or in a pavilion

Hebrews 10:24-25 - And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, **not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

We weren't meant to do life without God - the Garden reveals that

We aren't meant to do the Christian life without other believers - the church is for that

Romans 12:4-5 - For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, **so we, being many, are one body in Christ**, and individually members of one another.

The Church exists to care for and equip the Body of Jesus - Christians!

The church should meet their own needs (Acts)

Physically, Spiritually, Emotionally

Believers are to "Be the church"

Ephesians 4:11-12 - And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, **for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry**, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

The goal of church?

Worship God, equip the saints

Saints fed, encouraged, equipped

Sunday isn't the pinnacle, it's the huddle

<p><u>Teaching & Exhortation</u></p> <p>Fed sheep not fat sheep <i>Western spectator church, pew warming</i></p> <p><u>Every Christian called to ministry</u></p> <p>Matthew 28:19-20 - "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.</p> <p>You go out into the world the other six days</p>	<p>Church should have outreach, evangelism, altar calls</p> <p>Church mission: Primary - care for believers Secondary - reach the world</p> <p><i>Acts - deacons, caring for needs, apostles study, teach, pray</i></p> <p>Healthy disciples make healthy disciples</p> <p><i>Seeker friendly, watering down the word Compromise, exaltation of people in pulpit and downgrade of people in pews</i></p> <p><i>It's no wonder the American church is sick!</i></p>
<p>You're welcome in my house But my house is for my family</p>	<p><i>Eat from my fridge, but not my kid's lunch</i></p> <p><i>The world is welcome, but they shouldn't be spiritually comfortable - not watching that!</i></p>
<p>God's House is Orderly <i>Jesus drove out the money changers Temple had full-time caretakers</i></p> <p>1 Corinthians 14:39-40 - Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues. Let all things be done decently and in order.</p> <p>Homework 1 Cor 12-14 <i>It's amazing how much of the church is out of order! If we'd simply read!</i></p> <p>1 Corinthians 4:1-2 - Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.</p>	<p>Orderly Leaders Who Care For You Homework: 1-2 Timothy & Titus</p> <p>Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7</p> <p>1 Timothy 3:5 - (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?);</p> <p>Ultimately? Does he take care of his own house? A good steward of his own faith? Of his wife? Of his children? Of the practical house and home God gave him?</p>

Hebrews 13:17 - Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, **for they watch out for your souls**, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, **for that would be unprofitable for you.**

Respecting leadership, listening to what they have to say.

Pastors give advice, but they shouldn't control you *Not shepherding, but like a caring relative, helping you grow up*

my goal as a dad *is to teach them how and why to make good decisions, not to make every decision for them*

Best pastoral advice? *What is Jesus showing you? Have you been spending time with Him?*

Church leadership is more than one man

Like old school family, many elders
And ultimately One Head - Jesus

Moses, 10s, 100s, 1000s

People upset when deacons or elders come to visit instead of the pastor, don't come on a Sunday when the "senior" pastor isn't teaching

Important to have elders, not yes men
Counselors

Deacons

But someone has to lead the family

Voting doesn't produce good results
By elders or members

Imagine asking my kids to vote on the important things? Where to go for ice cream is fine

Leaders a part of the body - unhealthy to be separate. Shepherds live with the sheep and spiritual shepherds are just as much sheep of the True Shepherd

Like a home and house, a church will have business-like needs, but it is not a business. A franchise.

Buy a building, pay the bills, expenses to care for the family and have family activities

Satellite churches

Lawsuits and fights over territory

Be like branches in military! Serve CIC, fight enemy not each other

Leadership isn't a job

(Although it might pay)

Treating it like a job to fill only leads to disaster

The only one you work for is Jesus
And the real pay is the reward in heaven - people there

But "don't muzzle the ox"

"Workman worthy of his wages"

"Those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel"

Tragedy in punishing leadership practically with poverty

<p>Looking for a church home?</p> <p>2 Timothy 4:3-4 - For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.</p> <p><u>Carnal Christians</u> attend church to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be entertained • Get their needs met • Hear what they want to hear • Appease God, earn something/get something from Him • Check a box, treat like “temple” <p><u>Spiritual Christians</u> are the church to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship Jesus • Hear His Word, be changed by it • Be a part of the family - fellowship • Grow as a disciple • Serve and make disciples <p>Remember: God’s household is: family, flock, army, temple, household, body</p> <p>He is the Head of House The Father, The Boss, The God to be worshipped in His House</p>	<p>Finding Love Jesus, Sound Doctrine, Love You, Is a Family, Makes Disciples, real life not just activity, emotion or commotion</p> <p>Looking Heresy leave right away, try a few weeks-months- is Jesus feeding you? Being loved? Feel at home? Make it your home.</p> <p>Home New believer? Soak it all up. But be ready to grow and go. Don’t just spectate. Pray and look for opportunity.</p> <p><i>Tip: it’s not all sorted, you’re needed - maybe for something new/more</i></p> <p>Leaving Offended? Over sound doctrine vs. your opinion? Over an offense? The key - pray earnestly, forgive <i>Narrow cliff edge</i></p> <p>Jesus is your shepherd, follow Him Leave rightly, maintain fellowship if poss.</p>
<p>Homework: Rev 1-3</p> <p>Last-days churches: Philadelphia vs. Laodicea</p> <p>[John 14:1-6] <i>Many mansions, Jesus preparing</i></p>	<p>God’s house will have feasting, laughter, dancing, mourning, holiness, giving, sharing, growth, correction, instruction</p> <p><u>But most of all it should be about Jesus</u> You and Him, Us and Him But Him above all - and He wants you in his family, welcome in his house</p>