

ABOUT THE CHURCH

Ephesians 5:25-27

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Contrary to what many think, the Church is not like all the other "organizations" people go to. It is not a social organization/club, it is not a place to show off new clothes, it is not a place to baby sit children, it is not a recreation place, it is not a dining hall/cafeteria, it is not the local welfare agency. The Church is in a sense a "hospital" for the spiritual healing and welfare of the souls of its members. The Church, when it got started, was made up of believers in Jesus Christ who had been baptized and met together to worship, pray and support one another. The Church of today seems to be much different than when it was first started.

I. THE CHURCH WAS STARTED BY JESUS AND HE IS THE ONLY FOUNDATION

1. *Matthew 16:13-18*
2. The Church is founded and built upon ONLY Jesus Christ. (*1 Corinthians 3:11*)
3. The Church is made up of people who all believe in Jesus Christ as did the first Church members.
- *Matthew 16:16*
4. The Church is founded upon the "rock" of Peter's declaration of who Jesus really was.
- *Matthew 16:18*
5. There is nothing, not even Satan, that is stronger than the Church Jesus started.
6. As Jesus is eternal and indestructable, so is the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ.
7. The members of Jesus' Church have been bought and paid for by the shedding of His blood.
- *1 Peter 1:18-10*

II. JESUS COMMISSIONED HIS CHURCH TO CARRY ON HIS WORK OF EVANGELISM

1. *Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8*
2. The commission to witness given by Jesus is to be a continuous Church activity/movement.
3. The Church is to bring people to Jesus in belief and then baptize them, making them members of the Church and then to help them mature in the Scriptures and the Christian way of life.
- *Matthew 28:19-20*
4. Jesus promised to continuously be with the Church as the members witness and share their knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.
5. One of the last things Jesus did as He ascended back into Heaven was to charge the Church members to be active in witnessing everywhere, starting where they lived.
- *Acts 1:8*

III. THE CHURCH IS LIKE THE HUMAN BODY, HAVING MANY MEMBERS AND FUNCTIONS

1. *1 Corinthians 12:12-31*
2. The Church is not many, but ONE "body." (*vv12-14*)
 - The Church has many members. (*v12*)
 - The many members are all different with varied backgrounds, talents and ideas.
 - The many members are different in many ways, but all have the same common experience and that is believing in Jesus Christ, being baptized and given eternal life.
3. The Holy Spirit indwells each member of the Church and gives guidance to every single member.
 - (*v13*)
4. The many members of the Church work together smoothly as ONE body/being. (*v14*)
5. The many members of the single body, the Church, there must be unity. (*vv15-17*)
6. Every member in the body of Christ, the Church, has his/her appointed place of service by God.
 - (*v18*)
7. No body can be complete and function properly if there are several doing the same thing. (*v19*)
8. As there are many members in the body of Christ, the Church, there are many different things that must be attended to. (*v20*)
9. Every member of the body of Christ, the Church, is necessary, needed for something specific.
 - (*vv21-22*)
10. There is to be no "rulers or divisions" within the body of Christ, the Church. (*vv23-25*)
11. What affects a single member of the body of Christ, the Church, affects the entire Church body.
 - (*v26*)
12. The Church represents ONLY Jesus Christ, not its members. (*v17*)
13. The Holy Spirit assigns different members to do different things. (*vv28-29*)
14. The Holy Spirit gives different gifts/abilities to the many members, therefore making the Church well balanced and more useful to the Lord Jesus Christ. (*v30*)

CONCLUSION:

1. When Jesus was here, He did what He came to do.
2. When Jesus ascended back into Heaven, He left His Church to continue doing what He did.
3. Every member of Jesus' Church has an obligation, a duty, and has been given a gift to enable him/her to carry out that obligation, duty. ARE YOU doing what Jesus as assigned for you to do?