

full knowledge deep devotion



ESSENTIAL TRUTH #7 - We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone...

What is the Church?

- The church is not a _____ or a _____.
- The church is _____ who is trusting Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.
- The church _____ to Jesus and is being _____ by Jesus (Matthew 16:18).
- The church _____ (Ephesians 3:21).
- The Greek word for "church" is _____, which is a compound word meaning, "_____."
- "_____" does not mean "_____" the world (Matthew 5:13-16, 1 Peter 2:12).
- "_____" means leaving _____ and instead, pursuing _____ (1 Peter 1:13-16, 2:9, 11).
- The church is called out of pursuing _____ and into pursuing _____ (Romans 12:1-2, Philippians 2:5; 1 Corinthians 11:1).
- The way of Jesus includes belonging to and _____ a local church (Hebrews 10:24-25).
- The church is described using metaphors such as a field (1 Corinthians 3:9), branches grafted into an olive tree (Romans 11:17-18), a flock (John 10:1-18; 1 Peter 5:1-5; Acts 20:28-29), a branch in the vine (John 15:1-8), and frequently as a:
 - _____ (2 Corinthians 6:18; Matthew 12:49-50; Ephesians 2:19; Galatians 6:10).
 - _____ (1 Corinthians 3:11; Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:5-7; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:19).
 - _____ (Revelation 19:7-8, 21:9; 2 Corinthians 11:12; Ephesians 5:31-32).
 - _____ (1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12; Ephesians 4:12; Ephesians 5:30; Colossians 1:24).
- These metaphors teach the church that every believer belongs and _____.
- These metaphors teach the church about _____.
- These metaphors teach the church to _____.
- The way of Jesus is _____, modelled through his life and death (John 15:12-13).
- The two ordinances the church is instructed to practice are _____ and _____ (the Lord's Supper), both of which express the gospel and remind believers of the way of love.

Why does this matter?

ESSENTIAL TRUTH #7 - We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.

Additional Notes:

Going Deeper

Take some time this week to discuss these questions with others.

1. What do you think comes to mind for the average person when they hear the word “church”? How is that similar to or different than how “church” is explained in the New Testament?
2. Many of the books in the New Testament are letters which include instructions on how to address conflict in the church. What does this tell us about the church? If you are familiar with some of these letters, what are some of the situations being addressed?
3. Why is there potential for conflict even inside a healthy church?
4. Often, conflict by itself is not the real problem; how we deal with it is. In the New Testament there are instructions on how to treat one another. In your search engine, enter the words, “one another commands”. What do you notice and how might this aid in how we deal with conflict?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-26. What stands out to you most in this passage of Scripture?
6. Is there anything from this study that you find personally challenging?

Reflection & Application

Take a moment to prayerfully consider the following questions.

What is one thing I learned about God today?

Why does this matter?

How might knowing this affect the way I live?