

LESSON 4: THE CHURCH / ANSWERS

MARK THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS TRUE (T) OR FALSE (F):

- The church is attended by all believers. **T (or should be!)**
- The purpose of the church is to disciple people. **T (among other things)**
- The most important part of going to church is listening to the Sermon. **F (all important; Word & sacrament)**
- The church is the living body of Christ. **T**
- The universal church is made up of many denominations. **T**
- The church is invisible. **F (it is visible in many ways)**

God created the church; therefore He holds it in the highest regard. In fact, the church is defined as “the living body of Christ,” of which Christ is the head. (Colossians 1:18) To live a fruitful Christian life, we must understand God’s purposes for the church and our role as a part of it.

1. DEFINING THE CHURCH

- A. The church is a living **ORGANISM** because it is the people of God, the living body of Christ. (I Corinthians 3:16-17; 12:12-13)
- B. The church is also an **ORGANIZATION** because it has members, authority, government, and officers. (I Timothy 3:1)
- C. The Scriptures often refer to a single group of Christians, meeting to receive the Word and sacraments, as the **LOCAL** church. (Romans 16:4-5, 16; I Corinthians 16:19)

D. The Scriptures also refer to all the Christians in the world, and to regional groups of Christians, as the **UNIVERSAL (or CATHOLIC)** church. (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18)

2. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH?

The chief purpose of the church is to bring **GLORY** to God.
(Ephesians 3:21)

3. WHAT ARE THE PRIMARY WAYS THE CHURCH BRINGS GLORY TO GOD?

A. Through **WORSHIP**. (Psalm 29:2; Revelation 4:11)

B. Through **WITNESS**. (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)

C. Through **FELLOWSHIP**. (Ephesians 4:11-16)