

LESSON 4: THE CHURCH

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

- The church is attended by all believers.
- The purpose of the church is to disciple people.
- The most important part of going to church is listening to the Sermon.
- The church is the living body of Christ.
- The universal church is made up of many denominations.
- The church is invisible.

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 _____ 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 _____ 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 _____ 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 _____ 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 _____ to God.
(Ephesians 3:21)

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

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

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

C. Through _____. (Ephesians 4:11-16)

HOMWORK FOR CONFIRMATION CLASS #4

1. Explain how the church is both an organism and an organization.
2. Explain the difference between the visible and invisible church.
3. Who makes up the local church? the universal church?
4. Why is it important for you to be involved in the church?
5. Based on our lesson about the church, as a member, what will be your role in the church in worshipping? evangelism? equipping? Do these ways to glorify God apply to you?

Take some time to share how Intown is trying to carry out the purpose of the church.

6. Discuss how the following ministries are important in the life of the church. (Home Fellowship Groups, Children's Ministries, Youth Ministries, Missions, Mercy Team, and others.)
7. Discuss some of the ways that Trinity Church is seeking to share the gospel with those who have not received Christ (missions, special events like "A Westchester Christmas," worship services, etc.).

PASTOR/ELDER INTERVIEW SELECTION FORM

In the confirmation interview, your child will meet with two people who either pastors or elders. This interview, which usually takes about 30 minutes, is an opportunity for your child to express in their own words their understanding of the gospel and their commitment to Christ. We will also go over the membership vows with them in order to make sure they understand them.

If, in the opinion of those conducting the interviews, your child is not yet ready to make this public profession of faith in Christ, they will contact you and discuss this with you. Confirmation is not merely a rite of passage, and there is no “magic age” at which children are ready. We are looking for evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

Please select two pastors and/or elders for your child’s interview. We will do the best we can to match up your child with the pastors/elders that you choose. Please note, however, that this might not be possible and therefore we might need to assign your child to an elder from the list below:

Child’s Name - _____

#1 - _____

#3 - _____

#2 - _____

#4 - _____

Pastors

Craig Higgins
Craig Chapman

Elders

Kirk Balzer
Jim Courtney
Joe LoPrinzi
Steve Magneson
Frank Maselli
Luis Morejon
Phil Petronis
Lewis Trippett

Please return this form on the last Sunday of the Confirmation Class.