

The State of the Church

The Premise For The Church: *What Is The Church?*

April 14, 2024

Church Definitions

Universal (Invisible) Church

- ★ The universal church is made up of _____ believers in Jesus Christ worldwide. (Matt. 16:18)

Local Church

- ★ _____: an assembly or gathering. (Acts 5:11)
- ★ The local church is the gathering in a particular location of God's people, as his people, in his _____, to worship, to pray, to hear and to respond to his _____.

Development of the church

Day of _____ (Acts 2:40-47)

Paul's _____ Journeys (Acts 14:23; 15:41)

Descriptions of the church

_____ (I Timothy 3:15)

Pillar of _____ (I Timothy 3:15)

_____ of Christ (Ephesians 5:25-27)

_____ of Christ (Romans 12:4-5)

Takeaways

- ① The church has done more _____ than harm.
- ② Our local area _____ our local church.
- ③ The church is the people of God, powered by the _____ of God, guided by the _____ of God, working for the _____ of God.

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Sermon Discussion Guide

Getting Started

What comes to mind when you hear the word “church”?

Which misconception of the church do you think is most common or influential?

Sermon Discussion

Read II Timothy 3:16-17, Titus 1:9

What is the source of our Pillar of Truth?

Why is it so critical that the church maintain its role as the Pillar of Truth?

Read Galatians 1:1-2

How would you explain what it means to be a part of God’s family?

What are some of the ways in which we should be interacting with each other as part of God’s family, the church?

Read I Peter 5:2, I John 4:7, 11 (ESV/KJV), I Cor. 1:2 (ESV/KJV)

What are some other metaphors the Bible uses to describe the church?

As time allows discuss one of the other descriptions of the church given in the message.

Bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:25-27)

Body of Christ (Romans 12:4-5)

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