

## Lesson 4

# The Church Meeting

When you become a Christian, you are a member of God's family. Every spiritual child needs to become a part of a spiritual family. God is your heavenly father, and all Christians are like brothers and sisters of the same family. "This household is the church of the living God..." (1 Timothy 3:15). The household is not a building, and the "church" is not a place of worship, but a group of believers.

### I How does the Bible describe the relationship between Jesus and Christians?

- Romans 12:5
- Ephesians 1:22- 23

### II. What is Christ's position in the church?

- Ephesians 5:23

### III. The Functions of the Church

Functions	Verse	Your Needs
Worship	"Praise God, sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the saints." (Psalms 149:1)	to worship God
Fellowship	"And let us consider how we can spur one another on toward love and good deeds." (Hebrews 10:24)	to share
Teaching	"...and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:20)	to learn to obey
Ministry	"...to prepare God's people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up." (Ephesians 4:12)	to serve
The Power of the Holy Spirit	"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you..." (Acts 1:8)	to spread the gospel

Can Christians today not attend church?

- Yes/No/It Depends

Do you have difficulty attending church?

- Yes/No/It Depends

### IV. Why should you attend church

- ✓ Because we need worship, fellowship, teaching, ministry and the Holy Spirit's power.
- ✓ Because this is God's command. "And let us not \_\_\_\_\_ our meeting together, as some people do, but \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ each other, especially now that the day of his \_\_\_\_\_ again is drawing near." (Hebrews 10:25)
- ✓ To avoid deviating from the truth of the Bible.
- ✓ Because there are mature Christians in church to help you.

## V. **Three Obligations We Have in Church**

### A. Our obligation to be united with Christ –**Baptism (Rom 6:1-14)**

#### a. **Baptism is a fulfilment of our faith.**

- Jesus said that baptism was to “fulfil all righteousness.” Matthew 3:15
- Jesus set an example for us. He was baptized even though He never sinned, but because He knew it was the right thing to do.

#### b. **Baptism is a proclamation of our faith.**

- The words and actions of baptism communicate to those present that we are positioned in Christ Jesus. Romans 6:3

#### c. **Baptism is a confirmation of our faith.**

- We know and feel that we are freed from the old dead person, and live a new life of resurrection power. Romans 6:6-14

#### d. **Baptism is a witness of our faith.**

- Baptism is to show that we are dead, buried and resurrected together with the Lord.

*We were therefore \_\_\_\_\_ with him through baptism into \_\_\_\_\_ in order that, just as Christ was \_\_\_\_\_ from the dead through the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Father, we too may live a \_\_\_\_\_ life.” (Romans 6:4)*

#### e. **Baptism is a symbol of our faith.**

- Baptism does not have the power to forgive sins. We are saved when we confess with our mouth and believe in our heart. Romans 10:9

### B. Our Obligation to Remember -**The Lord’s Supper**

- Jesus personally set the Lord’s Supper as a remembrance of His death and shedding of blood for our sins. (Matthew 26:17-19, 26-30)
- When we take the Lord’s Supper, it helps us to remember and to give thanks.

“The \_\_\_\_\_ that brought us \_\_\_\_\_ was upon him, and by \_\_\_\_\_ we are \_\_\_\_\_.” Isaiah 53:5

- When we receive the Lord’s Supper, we have time to examine our actions and faith.

1 Corinthians 11:23-29

### C. Our obligation to give –**Offerings**

Offerings are thank-you gifts given to God as acts of worship. Offerings can include sacrifices of a person’s life, goals, time, abilities, and finances. Monetary offerings are required by God and are a test of the disciple’s faith, love, and obedience. Three kinds of monetary offerings are mentioned in the Bible.

#### a. **Tithes**

God commands us to tithe; the tithe belongs to God. It is not a voluntary offering, but what we are required to give. (Leviticus 27:30–31). The tithe should be paid; you can decide what to do with the other 90%, but we should give 10% back to God because it already belongs to Him.

*“Will a mere \_\_\_\_\_ rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ In \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. You are under a curse, your whole \_\_\_\_\_, because you are robbing me. Bring the whole \_\_\_\_\_ into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. \_\_\_\_\_ me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of \_\_\_\_\_ and pour out so much \_\_\_\_\_ that there will not be room enough to \_\_\_\_\_ it.” (Mal. 3:8-10)*

**b. Gifts and Offerings**

This is a truly voluntary offering arising from a thankful and sincere heart. The amount of the gift is your own personal decision. We cannot worship God without gifts and offerings. We should not continually come empty-handed into God’s presence.

**c. Love Offerings**

This is offering given to others. It is motivated by love and is given according to what a person has and according to the needs of others. Gift and love offerings cannot replace the tithe.

This week, make a commitment to becoming a church together. Begin adding these three obligations into your meeting times.