

YOUR PART IN THE CHURCH

Ephesians 1:22,23

Introduction:

A. Church

1. English language usage – refers to a b_____
2. King James o_____ the translating committee to translate the Greek word ekklesia because he wanted Christians to think of the church as a building.
3. Greek word ekklesia
 - a. ek is a preposition meaning o_____ of but is used as a prefix, and klesis is a noun meaning c_____
 - b. 1Pet 2:9 puts the word as an action v_____ giving the literal meaning – *called out of* (noun – called out one)
 - c. Therefore, the word translated as church refers to the people of God as one entity, sometimes termed the u_____ church.
 - d. The word translated church can also refer to a particular group of believers in Christ who g_____ together on a regular basis (1Cor 1:22; Gal 1:2,; Rom 16:16)

B. Eph 1:22,23 gives two pictures of the church where we will learn

1. Our God-given part in the l_____ church
2. Our God-given part in the u_____ church
3. and the universal level. of Ephesians, Paul gives two pictures of the church in Eph 1:22,23. In these two pictures, we are going to learn our God-given part in His church on the local level and on the universal level. It does not matter how old or young you are, how much talent you have, or how much money you have. If you have given your life to Jesus Christ, then you are important to God's church.

The first picture given of the church is the body of Christ. Jesus is called the head of the church and the church is called His body. Since the church is the body of Christ, then you and I must follow Christ's headship.

Since the church is the body of Christ, you must follow His headship

A. Paul pictures the church as the b_____ of Christ and Jesus as the h_____

1. Jesus is physically in h_____
2. Jesus functions s_____ through the church by directing it.

3. As the head is intimately c_____ to its body, so Jesus is intimately connected with the church
- B. Jesus as the head is working His plan through the church
 1. Matt 16:18 – Jesus plan is to b_____ His church (singular which refers to the people of God as one entity)
 2. Jesus plan is to build His church o_____, growing it numerically.
 - a. Rev 5:9,10 – He will save people from e_____ tribe, tongue, nation, and class of people.
 - b. Acts 2:41 – the 3000 that were saved were a_____ to the church.
 3. Jesus plan is to build His church u_____ (Eph 1:3 – growing it spiritually).
- C. There is only one universal church but many local churches
 1. Each local church is a m_____ version of the body of Christ (Rom 12:5; 1Cor 12:27)
 2. In order for the universal body of Christ to function, the local church must function by s_____ to the headship of Christ.
- D. Questions:
 1. Are we as a church submitting to the headship of Christ?
 - a. Are we striving to reach people for Christ
 - b. Are we working to grow people in Christ?
 - c. Are you doing your part in this body called Lighthouse Baptist Church? (Rom 12:4,5)

This brings us to the next phrase that describes the church. The last part of verse 23 pictures Christ's church body as *the fullness of Him*.

Since the church is the fullness of Christ, then Christ works through you who follow His headship

- A. Paul pictures the church as the f_____ of Christ
 1. This is a term of a_____ (there is no shortage or inadequacy)
 2. This same word was used in Mark 6:43 to describe the amount of leftovers after feeding the five thousand – twelve b_____ FULL
 3. The church is the fullness of Christ who fills ALL in ALL (see the last phrase of verse 23 – NIV reads, *who fills everything in every way*
 - a. 1 Cor 12:6 has the same exact phrase in the Greek text (literally, all in all, where all is in the plural)

- 1) The first *all* is neuter and refers to things, specifically spiritual g_____ in the context.
 - 2) The second *all* can be either masculine or neuter but only makes sense if masculine, and so refers to all p_____
 - 3) God working all in all means God is working the spiritual gifts in all believers.
- b. The above is the way Eph 1:23 should be understood
- 1) Christ fills for Himself everything that is needed in every person to accomplish His work.
 - 2) All we have to do is all Him to use us!
- B. What does God want me to do?
1. Follow His leading by looking for opportunities to reach out to unbelievers. Never m_____ opportunities, but always t_____ opportunities.
 - a. Look for opportunities to do g_____ to them (Gal 6:9)
 - 1) When they bring up spiritual things, converse with them about it
 - 2) Invite them to church or leave them an eternal life tract
 - b. Look for opportunities to s_____ mission work (our church emphasizes missions every month)
 2. Follow His leading by doing good to believers (Gal 6:10)
 - a. The Lord requires all believers to be part of a l_____ church by our attendance (Heb 10:24)
 - b. The Lord desires that believers in each local church e_____ one another (Heb 10:25)
 - c. The Lord wants us to do good to all Christians that cross our path regardless of what local church they belong to.
 3. Live in obedience and the p_____ of 2Tim 2:21 will be fulfilled – God will use you.

Conclusion - *God gave Jesus to be the head of the church, which is the spiritual body of Christ, and which is the fullness of Jesus who fills for Himself everything that is needed in everyone.*