

Church – living in the community of the kingdom of God

This study is to highlight what God says about living in the light with him and other Christians. The good news - we are not alone nor are we to try to live in light by ourselves.

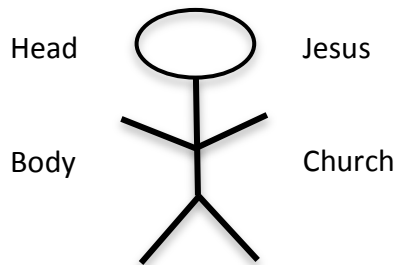
Colossians 1:18

Jesus is the head of his body (the church)

As a head tells its body how to function – Jesus tells us how the church is to function

Where do we find God's instructions on how the church should function?

What is an example of something God says about how His church should be?



1 Corinthians 12:12-14

There is only 1 body – one kingdom of God

When a person is baptized into Christ they are automatically added to God's body

1 Cor 12:15-20

Here a person cannot say to the church – I don't need you

There are no Christians separate from the body of Christ

1 Cor 12:21-26

Here the church cannot say to a person we don't need you

God puts the body together and every person is needed and wanted

What strikes from these verses about how God describes His body (the church) ?

Heb 10:23-5

Each part of the body should come when the church meets – no missing parts

Do you see God's desire for his entire body to be present when the church meets? If anything could make it difficult for you to be at church Sunday or Wednesday night what would it be? What can help establish a habit of meeting together as God desires?

1 Cor 1:10-13

God puts a high standard for his church to be unified – unity above our personal feelings, above our preferences of preacher styles, and the like

Why do you think God calls his people to be completely unified ?

How can this happen with so many different personalities?

Matthew 18:15-18

Here God tells us how to work things out.

First we are called to talk to the person we have a feeling toward

Then we get help from other Christians if the person doesn't respond well

Then we ask the church to pray and get involved

How is this different than the way the world functions?

What wisdom do you see in God's direction here?

John 4:23-24

God says it matters where we worship

We need to worship where the truth that we understand is taught (especially about salvation) And where there is a spirit that matches God's spirit (joy, peace, etc)

With so many groups calling themselves a church why would God give this direction?

How does this tie in to God's calling for us to go make disciples of other people?

2 Cor 9:6-7

God is looking for his people – living in his new Kingdom – to give back to Him. Money, talents, time and the like

In the old testament God commanded his people to give a tenth of their money back to God – in the NT God commands us to give what we have decided in our heart. The OT teaching is still a good starting point – giving 1/10 of our money if we can.

Why do you think God removed the command to give back a tenth or 10%?

How do you feel about giving regularly back to God of your money, time and talents?

How do you feel about giving 10% or making a goal to give 10% back to God?