

The Church

“Band of Christ-Followers” Acts 2:42; Selected Scripture

In his book, *Courageous Leadership*, Bill Hybels says of the local church, ***“There is nothing like the local church when it’s working right. Its beauty is indescribable. Its power is breathtaking. Its potential is unlimited. It comforts the grieving and heals the broken in the context of community. It builds bridges to seekers and offers truth to the confused. It provides resources for those in need and opens its arms to the forgotten, the downtrodden, the disillusioned. It breaks the chains of addictions, frees the oppressed, and offers belonging to the marginalized of this world. Whatever the capacity for human suffering, the church has a greater capacity for healing and wholeness.”***

Who is the CHURCH?

The Greek word, *ecclesia*, means, ***“called out ones.”*** The word was used to describe an assembly. The word church in the Greek is *kuriakon*, means, ***“belonging to the Lord.”***

What are the BIBLICALLY defined aspects of the church?

The best answer to this question is given by the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:42-47.

There are 6 aspects of the local church, all of which are mentioned in these verses but two words we will use are not necessarily stated specifically but inferred – worship and community (vv.43-46) – which are commanded throughout the rest of the New Testament letters to the churches.

WORSHIP:

(Psalm 24; Psalm 95; 96; 98:4-6; Acts 2:46; 1 Corinthians 14:23-40; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 23-25; Revelation 4-5)

Worship is the outward expression of gratitude for His grace in our life. It is an automatic response to the truth of His Word as the Holy Spirit enlightens our minds and our emotions follow in authentic loving worship of the Lord. ***(cf. Hebrews 10:23-25)***

TEACHING:

(Matthew 4:23-7:28; Acts 2:42; Ephesians 3:14-19; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-14 & 28; 2 Peter 1:3-11)

Teaching is “disciple making.” It consists of Biblical learning; growing; developing and application of God’s Word. It is from sound Biblical teaching that we learn spiritual formation and the ability to become effective in our lives as followers of Jesus.

PRAYER:

(Psalm 134; Luke 5:16; Acts 2:42; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; 1 Timothy 2:8)

The Word of God is God’s way of speaking to us. The Holy Spirit will always remind us of truth in Scripture to lead us in decision making and understanding of our situations and circumstances. Prayer is our communication back to Him.