

# HERITAGE BASICS: Lesson 9

## The Church

I. **The Universal Church....** *The Church, it is not a physical building, not a denomination, sect, or association nor is it an organization. The Church is a group of believers, a spiritual Body, a communion, a fellowship of believers in Christ.*

a. **Read Colossians 1:18 and Ephesians 5:23.**

i. What is Christ's position in the church? \_\_\_\_\_

ii. How is the church described? \_\_\_\_\_

b. **At what cost did Christ purchase the church (Acts 20:28)?**

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c. **How does a person become a member of the Body of Christ?**

i. Colossians 3:15: We are \_\_\_\_\_ into the body.

ii. 1 Corinthians 12:13: We are \_\_\_\_\_ into the body.

II. **The Local Church-** In the New Testament we see how believers came together in small groups to worship Christ, receive instructions from the Scriptures, meet one another's needs, pray, and evangelize.

a. **The local church illustrated**

i. Where did the believers meet before they had church buildings (Romans 16:51; 1 Corinthians 16:19)? \_\_\_\_\_

ii. On what day of the week did they meet (Acts 20:7)? \_\_\_\_\_

iii. What were the four things to which the early church was devoted (Acts 2:42)?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

b. **The local church organized**

i. **Gifted Men-** According to Ephesians 4:11-12, God gave four types of gifted men to the church. List them

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

God gave these gifted men to the church to equip the saints for what purposes (verse 12)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

ii. **Elders/Overseers**- The qualifications of an elder or overseer are stated in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9.

1. What are the two major responsibilities of an elder (1 Peter 5:1-2)?

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2. What is the responsibility of believers to the elders (Hebrews 13:17)?

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Why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

iii. **Deacons**- The word *deacon* means “servant.” The deacons are to minister to the needs of the flock under the direction of the elders of the church. The qualifications of deacons are stated in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

iv. **Members of the Body**

1. What does Hebrews 10:25 warn believers not to neglect?

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2. Hebrews 13:7 instructs us concerning those who teach us God’s Word. What should be our response? Circle the correct answer...

a. Encourage other to come and hear them.

b. Not hope to have the same kind of faith they have.

c. Observe their godly lives and follow their example of faith.

3. How should we act toward other members of the Body (1 Corinthians 12:25)?

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4. How should those who are appointed to preach and teach be supported?

a. 1 Corinthians 9:14 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. Galatians 6:6 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

III. **Fellowship**- The Greek word *koinonia* is used to describe fellowship within the Body of Christ. It means “participation with others in a common purpose.” The Latin equivalent is *communion*, pointing to the communion that is shared with other believers as well as with God.

**a. Unity within the church**

i. What is God’s desire for every local church (1 Corinthians 1:10)?

\_\_\_\_\_

ii. Read Ephesians 4:2-3

1. What will promote unity (verse 2)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is our responsibility (verse 3)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

iii. Read Philippians 2:1-4. What is the key to maintaining unity within the body (verse 3)?

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**b. Fellowship with God and with other believers-** Scripture is clear that the believer enjoys fellowship with :

i. God the Father (1 John 1:3)

ii. God the Son (1 John 1:3)

iii. The Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 13:14)

iv. Other believers (1 John 1:7)

However, with whom is true fellowship not possible (2 Corinthians 6:14-15)? \_\_\_\_\_

**c. Fellowship involves ministering to other believers**

i. Fellowship within the Body of Christ involves sharing in each other’s lives. According to each verse below, how should Christians minister to one another?

1. Romans 14:19 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Galatians 5:13 \_\_\_\_\_

3. Galatians 6:2 \_\_\_\_\_

4. James 5:16 \_\_\_\_\_

ii. What has God given to each Christian to help him or her minister to others within the church (1 Peter 4:10-11)? \_\_\_\_\_

**IV. Worship-** The English word *worship* originally was spelled “worthship,” meaning to acknowledge the worth of someone or something. We worship when we give honor to God for who He is. Worship acknowledges God’s Person, nature, attributes, and works. It stems from a grateful heart and renders adoration, devotion, and submission to God.

**a. God seeks genuine worshipers**

- i. Read John 4:23-24. How are we supposed to worship God (verse 24)?
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**NOTE: If we are to worship God in truth, and not in error, we must seek to know Him by learning about His attributes and actions.**

**b. We worship God because only He is worthy of our highest devotion.** Read Revelation 4:10-11 and answer the following questions.

- i. What is God worthy to receive? \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. Why? \_\_\_\_\_

**c. Worshiping God involves praise.**

- i. How did the psalmist say God should be worshiped (Psalm 66:4)? \_\_\_\_\_

**d. Worshiping God involves reverence.**

- i. What did Moses do when he worshiped God (Exodus 34:8)?
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- ii. How is reverence for God revealed in the following verses?
1. Exodus 34:8 \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Luke 7:1-7 \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Revelation 1:17 \_\_\_\_\_

**V. Ordinances of the Church-** Baptism and Communion are the only two ordinances for the Church.

**a. Baptism-** was instituted by our Lord and practiced by early believers. It is a declaration of our identification with Jesus Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. Clearly, baptism was practiced by the early church, and therefore, we believe this ordinance should be practiced by the church today.

**i. Why baptize?**

1. Baptism was \_\_\_\_\_ by our Lord—Matthew 28:19.
2. Baptism was practiced by the early \_\_\_\_\_ --Acts 2:41; 8:26-39; 10:44-48; 16:31-33; 18:8.

**ii. Who should be baptized?** In the Scriptures we find examples of disciples (or followers) of Christ, believers and those who had received the Holy Spirit being baptized:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 28:19
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 2:41; Acts 8:30-38; Acts 16:33-34
3. Those who have received the \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 10:44-48

Therefore, we conclude that those who have personally confessed Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord (i.e., Christians) should be baptized.

iii. **What does baptism mean?** Baptism is a declaration of the believer's identification with Christ:

1. Identification with Christ in His \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 6:3
2. Identification with Christ in His \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 6:4a
3. Identification with Christ in His \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 6:4b

Baptism is an acknowledgment "that our old self was crucified with Him" (Romans 6:6) and a profession that henceforth we "might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4b).

iv. **How should we baptize?** We believe that a person should be baptized by being fully immersed in water:

1. The word *baptism* was transliterated from the word *baptize* meaning to "make fully whelmed; to dip or to sink".
2. Baptism took place where there was *much water*—John 3:23
3. When they baptized they went *down into the water* (Acts 8:38) and *came up from the water* (Matthew 3:16).

Also, when baptizing by immersion, the picture of going down into the water and coming up out of the water symbolizes the believer's identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

Have you confessed Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you been baptized... as a believer? \_\_\_\_\_

b. **The Ordinance of Communion-** The Lord's Supper, or Communion, is one of two ordinances given to the church by Jesus Christ (the other being baptism). The Lord's Supper is an act of remembrance of Christ's death.

i. Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 and fill in the blanks below.

1. The Bread is in remembrance of \_\_\_\_\_
2. The Cup is in remembrance of \_\_\_\_\_
3. Every time you partake in Communion, you proclaim the Lord's death (1 Corinthians 11:26). In light of that truth, what is the warning stated in 1 Corinthians 11:27-30?

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## VI. Application

a. Are you a member of the Body of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

b. Are you a member of a local assembly of Christians? \_\_\_\_\_

c. What have you learned from this study to improve your worship of God?

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