

# ECCLESIOLOGY:

## Lesson 04

The Purpose of the Church

# A suggested structure for study:

- I. The principles for the study of the Church
  - A. Word study
  - B. Definition
  - C. Systematic considerations
- II. The concept of the Church
  - A. The origin of the Church
  - B. The distinction of the Church
  - C. The universal Church
  - D. The local Church
  - E. The figures of the Church
- III. The function of the Church
  - A. The purpose
  - B. The leadership
  - C. The organization
  - D. The ordinances
  - E. The Ministry
- IV. The Church in time
  - A. The Church past (Church history)
  - B. The Church present
  - C. The Church future

Outline:

## **II. The concept of the Church**

- The origin of the Church
- The distinction of the Church
- The figures of the Church

## The Distinction of the Church:

- The distinction of the “local” and “universal” church
- The distinction of Israel and the Church

## The Figures of the Church:

- Flock and Shepherd (John 10)
- Branches and Vine (John 15)
- New Creation and Last Adam (2 Cor. 5:17)
- Holy temple and Cornerstone (Eph. 2:20-22)
- Kingdom of Priests and King and High Priest (1 Pet. 2:5-9)
- Bride and Husband (Eph. 5:12-31)
- Body and Head (1 Cor. 12:12-31)

The Figures of the Church that especially  
instruct us concerning “one another”:

- The Family, 1 Timothy 5:1-2; 6:2; 2 Thess. 3:6, 15
- The Body, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

## The Church As A Family:

- Entrance into the Family: New Birth
- Responsibilities to the Father...
  - ✓ Love Him, Matt. 22:37-38; 1 John 2:15
  - ✓ Honor Him, 1 Cor. 10:31; Rom. 15:5-6; John 5:23
  - ✓ Obey Him, John 14:31; Hebrews 12:9
  - ✓ Accept His Discipline, Hebrews 12:7-8, 10
  - ✓ Become like Him, 1 Peter 1:14-16;  
2 Cor. 6:16-7:1; 1 John 3:1-3.
  - ✓ Represent Him with honor, 1 Corinthians 15:15

## The Church As A Family:

- Responsibilities to Each Other...
  - ✓ Recognize each other as brothers and sisters.
  - ✓ Love each other as brothers and sisters...
  - ✓ Honor each other as brothers and sisters
  - ✓ Live in unity with each other as brothers and sisters.



## The Church As A Family:

- Responsibilities to Each Other...
  - ✓ Serve each other as brothers and sisters.
  - ✓ Meet one another's needs as brothers and sisters
  - ✓ Refresh one another's hearts as brothers and sisters

## The Church As A Body (1 Cor. 12:12-27) Responsibilities to Each Other...

- ✓ Recognize that this is God's doing...God's design, 12:11, 13, 18.
- ✓ Recognize our interdependence with one another, 14.
- ✓ Recognize that YOU are important, 15-20.

## The Church As A Body (1 Cor. 12:12-27) Responsibilities to Each Other...

- ✓ Recognize that everyone else is important, too!, 21-24
- ✓ The goal is that there be **NO DIVISION**, 25.
- ✓ Care for and honor one another, 25-26.
- ✓ Suffer and honor...together!, 26.

God wants us to live  
in the Church  
As a Family and  
As a Body  
With all of the blessings  
and responsibilities  
that each figure suggests!

## Church Membership

- “Body Membership” in the universal Church is automatic and immediate upon salvation!
- Membership in a local church requires prior membership in the universal Church...  
Regenerate Church Membership.
- Therefore, there may be conditions for becoming a member of a local church, to verify, that one is a believer, and is sound in doctrine.

# The Purpose of the Church – Acts 2:42

“And they were continually devoting themselves to...

- The Apostles' Teaching
- Fellowship
- The Breaking of The Bread
- Prayer

Acts 2:42: “And they were continually devoting themselves to...

- The Apostles' Teaching

- ✓ Acts 6:1-4, 7
- ✓ Acts 20:18-20, 26-27, 32
- ✓ 1 Timothy 3:2; 15; 4:6, 11, 13, 15-16.
- ✓ 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 4:1-5

Acts 2:42: “And they were continually devoting themselves to...

- **The Apostles’ Teaching**

- ✓ Includes “equipping the saints to the work of service,” Ephesians 4:11-14.
- ✓ Includes training future leaders, 2 Timothy 2:1-2
- ✓ Includes ministry to unbelievers, 1 Cor. 15:34. Cf. Isaiah 49:6; Revelation 2-3.



Acts 2:42: “And they were continually devoting themselves to...

- **Fellowship** Koinōnia, from the Greek word, koiné, means sharing what you have in “common.”

- ✓ Acts 2:44-47
- ✓ Acts 4:33-35.
- ✓ 1 John 1:1, 3

Acts 2:42: “And they were continually devoting themselves to...

- The Breaking of The Bread

- ✓ Acts 2:42, literally, “...the breaking of the bread...”
- ✓ Acts 20:7, “...when we were gathered together to break bread...”

infinitive of purpose!

Acts 2:42: “And they were continually devoting themselves to...

- The Breaking of The Bread

- ✓ 1 Corinthians 10:14-22

- ✓ 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

- Remembrance



- Proclamation



- Anticipation!



- Examination!



Acts 2:42: “And they were continually devoting themselves to...

- Prayer

- ✓ Acts 1:14
- ✓ Ephesians 6:18-20
- ✓ Colossians 4:2-4
- ✓ 1 Timothy 2:1-4

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devoting themselves to...

- The Apostles' Teaching
- Fellowship
- The Breaking of The Bread
- Prayer

A Healthy  
church will be  
devoted  
to all 4!



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