

ECCLESIOLOGY:

Lesson 03

The Nature 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

Four reasons why the Church began at Pentecost:

- 1- Christ needed to die first
- 2- Christ needed to be raised first
- 3- Christ needed to ascend first
- 4- The advent of the Holy Spirit was required first

- Lewis Sperry Chafer

The origin of the Church:

- Matthew 4:17, 23
- Matthew 12:9-13, 23-24
- Matthew 13:1-3, 10-13
- Matthew 16:18-20
- John 15:1-11, 26-27;16:7-15
- Matthew 28:18-20
- Acts 1:1-8;
- Acts 2:1-6, 36-38, 47
- Acts 8:1-3, 14-17
- Acts 10:44-48
- Acts 11:15

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.

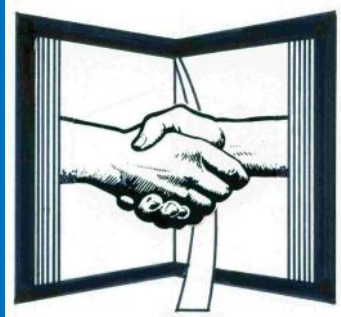
The Church As A Body (1 Cor. 12:12-27) Responsibilities to Each Other...

- ✓ 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.
- Therefore, there may be conditions for becoming a member of a local church, to verify, first, among other things, that one is a believer, and is sound in doctrine.



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