

# Lesson 10 – Why Church?

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## INTRODUCTION

In the previous lesson, we discovered that a proper attitude toward money and possessions is essential to a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Another important aspect of growing your relationship with Jesus Christ is a proper understanding of the church. This lesson will help us identify the purpose of the church and how we can benefit from our involvement in it.

## WHAT IS CHURCH?

It is safe to say that right or wrong, everyone has a perception of what the church is. Many people think the church is a building. Others think the church is a place of perfect people. Read the following verses to discover the true identity of the church.

*Colossians 1:18*

*Ephesians 1:22, 23*

*1 Corinthians 12:12, 25-27*

According to the Scriptures, the church is a body over which Jesus Christ is the head. The church is made up of people from all over the world and all across time who have made the decision to trust Jesus Christ as the forgiver of their sins and leader of their lives.

## WHAT CAN THE CHURCH DO FOR ME?

Some people mistakenly think the church is only out to get their time and their money. However, there are many benefits we receive from being involved in a church. Read the following verses and identify some of the benefits.

*Acts 2:42-47*

*Ephesians 4:12-16*

*Hebrews 10:24, 25*

The church was established as a place to help us grow and mature in our faith. When a church functions the way God intended, we will receive biblical teaching, encouragement to worship, equipping to minister, and loving relationships.

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### WHAT CAN I DO FOR THE CHURCH?

It is important to be involved in a church, because there are certain things we need from the church to grow and certain things the church needs from us to grow. Read the following verses and identify some of the ways we can contribute to the growth of the church.

*Romans 12:10*

*Galatians 5:13*

*Ephesians 4:2, 3*

*1 Thessalonians 4:18*

*Ephesians 4:31, 32*

*James 5:16*

*Colossians 3:13, 14*

*2 Corinthians 9:6, 7*

*1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-11*

Involvement in a church is so much more than just showing up at Sunday services. It is experiencing life together. This shared experience is often referred to as community. Community includes unselfish loving, practical serving, sacrificial giving, sympathetic comforting, and all the other “one another” commands found in the New Testament.

### CONCLUSION

It’s more important to Jesus that we be the church rather than just go to church! (Read that again, slower this time.) Being the church includes knowing and being known, loving and being loved, celebrating and being celebrated, serving and being served. Most of the great moments in our spiritual growth and development will happen around other Christians. Those relationships will most often be the direct result of our intentional involvement and participation in a church.

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### **HOMEWORK**

Read Acts 2:42-27. Imagine being part of a church like the one described in this passage. What would excite you about being part of this kind of church? What would make you nervous?

The following is a list of some of the teams you can serve on at NewPointe:

*Ushers*

*Café*

*Greeters*

*Hosts*

*Check-in*

*Security*

*Info Desk*

*Audio/Sound*

*Lighting*

*Prayer*

*Nursery*

*Children*

*Students*

*Helping Hands*

*Sports*

*Other: \_\_\_\_\_*

Select several teams from the list above and commit to exploring your involvement over the next couple months.