
Some thoughts to take with youChurch Matters

The holiest moment of the church service is the moment when God's people -- strengthened by preaching and sacrament -- go out of the church door into the world to be the church. We don't go to church; we are the church.

Ernest Southcott

The family of God is ethnically and culturally diverse. As Christians we not only permit such diversity, but we *cherish* it. This is because God Himself cherishes ethnic diversity. He is not *color*-blind; He is *colorful*. At His throne God welcomes worshipers "from every nation, tribe, people and language" (Rev. 7:9). His plan of redemption is for the peoples of the world in all their rich variety.

Philip Graham Ryken

When you join a church, you make it visible. You give a living demonstration of the spiritual reality of the body of Christ. You show that even though you are an individual, you are a part of the body; you are joined together with others. You take the body of Christ out of the realm of the theoretical (1 Cor. 12:27) and give it a meaning that people can see.

Don Whitney

On the most elementary level, you do not have to go to church to be a Christian. You do not have to go home to be married either. But in both cases if you do not, you will have a very poor relationship.

Kent Hughes

The New Testament does not teach a doctrine of tithing. Nor does Paul define what constitutes giving generously... The only rule is to give freely and generously as an expression of our continuing trust in God's grace. Paul simply assumes that believers will give all they can to meet as many needs as they can in order to glorify God as much as they can.

Scott Hafemann

I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare.

C.S. Lewis

God doesn't look at just what we give. He also looks at what we keep.

Randy Alcorn

God is not pleased with "ecclesiastical hitchhikers."

David W. Hegg

Questions? Need additional help or resources? Email Pastor David at dhegg@northpointcorona.org

Church Matters

Ephesians 1:22,23; Hebrews 10:19-25

Introduction: In the past few years, popular writers have increasingly suggested that the church has no future. Statements like "you'll have to leave the church to be the church" abound. And while it is foolish to suggest that the church today is without blemish, it is also fair to assert that where the church *is* the church, it remains the primary vehicle through which Christ is working out His kingdom mission of rescue and reformation. With all its problems, the church matters.

Abandoning the Church

Current critiques

Current trends

Defining Church

A working definition

A working explanation

Ephesians 1:22,23

Being the Church

A community that offers assurance

A community that understands forgiveness

A community that upholds truth without compromise

A community that is mutually accountable

A community that is intentionally influential

A community that is joyfully together

Hebrews 10:19-25

Now more than ever ...

Membership matters

Money matters

A time for reflection ...

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Defining Church

Ephesians 1:22,23

A working definition: *A local community of recognizable Christ-followers organized under Him for the purpose of authentic worship and righteous influence.*

A working explanation

Being the Church

Hebrews 10:19-25

A community that offers assurance: vs. 22a

A community that understands forgiveness: vs. 22b

A community that upholds truth without compromise: vs. 23

A community that is mutually accountable: vs. 24a

A community that is intentionally influential: vs. 24b

A community that is joyfully together: vs. 25

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Kids Notes

Church Matters

The Questions

Answer the following questions. The answers are on the back.

1. *The "church" is:*

- A. all those who sincerely follow Jesus Christ.
- B. the building on the corner.
- C. an organized group of Christ-followers.
- D. A and C.

2. *The church of which Jesus Christ is the boss is:*

- A. too old-fashioned to be any good today.
- B. needs to be completely revolutionized.
- C. still the main way He works in our world.
- D. all of the above.

3. *Church membership is:*

- A. more than just coming to church.
- B. more than being part of a church's ministry.
- C. being an active partner and supporter of the church.
- D. all of the above

For Family Discussion: *What is the difference between "going to church" and "being the church?"*

Space to Doodle

Did You Hear It?

Mark the times you hear these key words:

CHURCH _____	TOTAL: _____
COMMUNITY _____	_____
CHRIST _____	_____
FORGIVENESS _____	_____
TRUTH _____	_____
MEMBERSHIP _____	_____

Word Search

Find the following words in the scramble below. Letters are sometimes used twice, and words may go around corners.

CHURCH COMMUNITY CORONA CHRIST FORGIVENESS FAITH SIN
 ASSURANCE CONFIDENCE TRUTH MEMBERSHIP MONEY SUPPORT
 YEAR DRAW SINCERE CLEANSED REFORMED ATTENDANCE LOVE
 GOOD DEEDS STIMULATE CONSIDER HOPE CONFESSION

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G K U U D G S A N O R O C V C Q E
M E M B E R S H I P I H D D O C D
T M E P S J E U Z L U I E G N Q O
X V O J N M N Z P R B M E E F P O
T H N N A Y E I C P R N D Q E S G
A S K V E Q V H T O O I S W S I N
E T I D L Y I Z F J F R C I S N J
E T T R C W G E C N Y O T B I C P
X V A E H T R X O E M M E P O E Q
H V O L N C O C A M W A R D N R X
T P M L U D F R U C O N S I D E R
I X A I E M A N E C N A R U S S A
A T R U T H I N R M U X N D Q Y T
F P T B B T W T C V Q N H G N L X
N S A X Y O V M S E M I A I U C E
  
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