

THE CHURCH

(Called Out of the World
and Belonging to Christ)

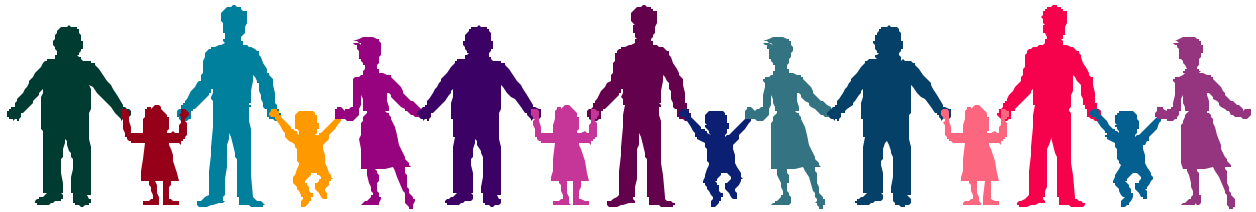


Introduction

What is the Church?

A lot of people have a wrong concept.
Public opinion sometimes becomes fact for people.
It is important to look at what the scriptures say.

OR



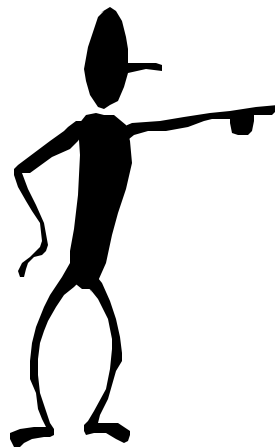
Scriptures on the Church and the Body

Colossians 1:15 - 18, 24; Ephesians 5:23-32

What does it say about Jesus and the Church?
What happens to a body without it's head?
What are qualities of a healthy body?

Points to discuss:

Jesus is the head of the body, which is the church.
The body needs the head to function.



Jesus – Head

Gives Direction
Makes Decisions
In Control

Church – Body

Many Members
All Members Connected
Without the Head: Death
All Members Work Together

I Corinthians 12:12 – 13

How do we get into the body?

How many bodies are there? How many churches has God established? Matthew 16:18

How attached are you to the members of your body? For example how attached is your arm?

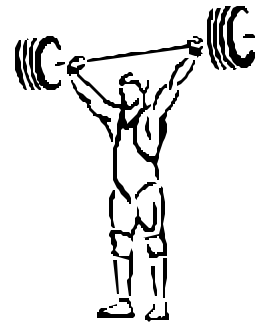
What would you do to protect a small part of your body? For example, your little finger.

Points to discuss:

The body is one though it has many parts.

We get into the body by being baptized into Christ.

There is only one Biblical church.



Romans 12:4 – 5

What are some abilities you have?

Why is this important to the body?

Points to discuss:

We all have different abilities that are needed (I Corinthians 12:14 - 26).

We belong to each other.

Scriptures on the Church and the Family of God

Ephesians 2:19 - 21

What did we use to be?

What are we now?

What are some characteristics of a good family?

Points you could bring out:

No longer foreigners and aliens.

Now we are members of God's household.

We are the family of God.



<p>Families: Every one is important Love Discipline Commitment Conflict resolution Acceptance Sharing Work Etc</p>

I Timothy 3:14-15

What is the church called in this text?

What must the church support from this text to continue to be the church?

Points to discuss.

We as Christians are to be God's household, we are family.

As the church we need to support God's truth and not man's perspective.

Applications

Hebrews 10:24 - 25

Why do Christians meet together?

Why is this important?



Points to discuss.

Encourage one another to grow in Christ (Hebrews 3:13).

Meeting together is not an option in following Jesus (Acts. 2:42 - 47).

Ephesians 2:20

Do you know what a cornerstone is?

Who are the apostles and prophets?

What would their foundation be?

What would you call something built on a foundation other than the apostles and prophets?

Points to discuss.

Christ is the cornerstone.

Foundation is the apostles and prophets, the teachings contained in the New Testament.

Any organization that builds on a different foundation than the apostles and prophets is not the church Jesus died for and established.

We must seek to be the church of God's choice and not seek the church of our choice.

Conclusion

The church is God's people who have been called out of the world to live for Jesus. We are a family and a body that is meant to work together to bring God glory. It is extremely encouraging to know that we are not here alone, but have a family to help give us strength and whom we can use our gifts to help serve. Lone wolf Christians have never been God's plan, the church has.