

Session 15

**What
about
the
church**



What is the church?

- Popular misconceptions:
 - Church = services
 - Church = buildings

1. FRIENDS (John 15:15)

- Friends with Jesus
- Friends with one another (Hebrews 10:25)
- Greek word *koinonia* = fellowship

2. FAMILY (1 John 5:1)

- God as our Father (John 1:12)
- Brothers and sisters to each other (1 John 4:19 – 5:1)
- Importance of unity
- Jesus prayed ‘... that they may be one’ (John 17:11)

Becoming a Christian involves:

- Something God does – he gives you the Holy Spirit
- Something you do – you repent and believe
- Something the church does – baptism

Baptism is the visible mark of being a member of the church.

Baptism signifies:

- Cleansing from sin (1 Corinthians 6:11)
- Dying and rising with Christ (Romans 6:3–5; Colossians 2:12)

3. HOME (Ephesians 2:19–22)

- Old Testament – physical temple was God’s home
- New Testament – a building made up of people (Ephesians 2:21–22)
 - Jesus as the cornerstone (v.20)
 - Indwelt by God’s Spirit (v.21) ‘a holy temple’
 - A place where people are loved, accepted and welcomed home

4. JESUS (1 Corinthians 12:1–27)

- We are the body of Christ through whom the world will see Jesus (v.27)
- Universal church (Ephesians 3:10,21; 5:23,25)
 - Unity (John 17:20–21)
 - Diversity (Ephesians 4:7–11)
 - Mutual dependence (vv.14–26)

5. LOVE (Ephesians 5:25–27,32)

- Jesus loves the church; Jesus loves you (v.25)
- The church should be famous for its love

‘You can do what I cannot do, I can do what you cannot do; together we can do great things’

MOTHER TERESA

RECOMMENDED READING

Questions of Life
Nicky Gumbel

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