

Personal/Small Group Sermon Study

Week of May 7, 2023 A.D.

The Church is the Family of God

There is perfect harmony and unity in God the father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. And, because the church is literally the family of God, we have been commanded by God to seek the same harmony and unity with each other through our faith in Christ. Let us talk about that in this lesson.

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

Read Ephesians 1:1-2

1. In the Bible, the believers in Christ are often called "saints". Are you a believer in Christ? Please explain why? Do you see yourself as a saint? Please explain why or why not. Do you consider yourself to be faithful to Christ? Again, please explain your answer.

Read Ephesians 4:1-6

2. According to verse 1, every Christian has a "calling" from God. With regard to your own calling, please state (a) what it is; (b) its duties and responsibilities; (c) how and when you fulfill that calling; and (d) what you are doing to improve and/or increase your ability to fulfill that calling.
3. Read verse 2. How important is love in the life of a Christian? Please define and discuss how well these character traits describe your behavior in your interactions with other people: (a) humble; (b) gentle; and (c) patient. Are these characteristics optional for the life of a Christian?
4. Read verses 3-6. In your experience, are Christians more committed to their church denomination or to Christ? In your opinion, does "the unity of the Spirit" thrive in (a) the American church; and (b) your church family? If your answer is "no" to either of these questions, how does this indifference toward the unity of the Spirit keep the church from fulfilling its mission for Christ?

Read Ephesians 4:7-13

5. In verse 7, the word "grace" means a spiritual gift, ability, and/or responsibility or role. According to verse 7, does every believer have a role in God's plan for the church? Who chooses and assigns the role to each believer? Does God expect each believer to fulfill their assigned role by using the abilities which have been given to them by God?

Read Ephesians 2:8-10

6. Does God have a plan for the daily life of every believer? If so, do you seek to know and to fulfill God's plan for your life every day? If so, how and why? If not, why not?

Read Ephesians 4:11-13

7. Does God expect every Christian to serve other Christians? Why or why not? How does your church encourage each member to serve (i.e. minister to) each other? What is your ministry within your church family?
8. According to these verses, what is the goal of the church? Can that goal be reached if each believer acts independently of and from the church family?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:7-10

9. Will you be required to give a personal account to Jesus for your obedience and your disobedience to His plans for your life? Is your desire to serve God the top priority in your life? Does God want you to please Him? If so, why? If not, why not? Do you want to please Him? If so, why? If not, why not?

Read Ephesians 4:14-16

10. Please explain the meaning of verse 14.
11. According to verses 15-16, does God expect every believer to be a minister to other believers in their church family? Why or why not?
12. Is your church family living in obedience to what is taught in Ephesians 4:1- 16? Are you? If either answer is "no", what are you going to do to change the answer to "yes"?

Consider: Is it your desire to live a life which is pleasing to Jesus? Are you fulfilling the ministry obligations which God has assigned to you within your church family? "You think about that." Amen.