

“What Must I Do to Inherit Eternal Life?”

Lesson 6: The Church (Part 1)

Notes

- In *Lesson 5*, we learned about the purposes of baptism and the need for faithfulness after being baptized.
- In *Lesson 6*, we will begin to learn about the church.*

**Explanatory note:*

The word “church” (from the Greek word, *ekklesia*) is used in multiple ways in the New Testament. “Church” means a “community” or a “congregation.” Sometimes, the New Testament authors used the word “church” to speak of the *universal* church (the global community of Christians) (Hebrews 12:23; Colossians 1:24). Other times, they used “church” to speak of one or more *local* churches (individual congregations) (Romans 16:16; Colossians 4:16).

In Section 1 of this lesson, we will focus on the *universal* church. In Section 2, we will turn our attention to the *local* church. Even in Section 1, however, we will be learning about the local church, since some of what is true of the *whole* must necessarily be true of its *parts*.

Section 1 The Universal Church

1. Matthew 16:17-18

Who built the church?

- Martin Luther
- John Wesley
- Jesus

To whom does the church belong?

- no one
- Christians
- Jesus

2. Acts 20:28

Jesus _____ the church with His own blood.

- punished
- purchased
- persecuted

3. Ephesians 5:23 (optional: Colossians 1:18)

Jesus is the church’s _____.

- head
- heart
- hands

4. Ephesians 1:22-23 (optional: Colossians 1:24)

The church is Jesus' _____.

- a. spirit
- b. soul
- c. body

5. Ephesians 4:4 (optional: Romans 12:4-5)

How many bodies does Jesus have?

- a. one
- b. many
- c. unknown

Since the body is the church, how many churches are there?

- a. one
- b. many
- c. unknown

6. Ephesians 5:23

Who will Jesus save?

- a. everybody
- b. nobody
- c. the body (the church)

7. 1 Corinthians 12:13

When do we enter into the body/church?

- a. when we believe
- b. when we pray
- c. when we are baptized

8. 1 Timothy 3:15; John 17:17

Explanatory note: John 17:1 reveals that Jesus is praying to God the Father in John 17:17.

Is the church the pillar and ground (support) of the truth?

- a. yes
- b. no

Does this mean that the church *upholds* the truth?

- a. yes
- b. no

Where is the truth found?

- a. the word of God
- b. the word of men
- c. our hearts

How does the church uphold the truth (the word of God)?

- a. by ignoring it
- b. by misunderstanding it
- c. by correctly understanding it, teaching it, and practicing it

9. Acts 2:40-42

Did the early church continue steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine (teaching)?

- a. yes
- b. no

10. Matthew 16:16-19; 18:18

Explanatory note: (1) Matthew 18:1-2 reveals that Jesus is speaking to the disciples/apostles in Matthew 18:18. (2) The terms "bind" and "loose" were commonly used in Jesus' time to express the concepts of "prohibit" and "permit."

Did Jesus say that what the apostles prohibited and permitted would have the authorization of heaven?

- a. yes
- b. no

11. John 16:13-15

Did Jesus promise that the Holy Spirit would guide the apostles into all truth?

- a. yes
- b. no

Did Jesus promise that what the Holy Spirit revealed to the apostles would actually be from Him (Jesus)?

- a. yes
- b. no

12. 1 Corinthians 14:37

Explanatory note: 1 Corinthians was written by the *apostle* Paul.

Are the things the apostle Paul wrote the commandments of the Lord*?

- a. yes
- b. no

**Explanatory note:* The Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 4:5; 1 Corinthians 8:6).

13. 1 John 4:6

Explanatory note: 1 John was written by the *apostle* John; however, John chooses to use the pronoun “we” throughout the book. 1 John 1:1 reveals that the “we” is the *apostles*. John and the other apostles had “heard” Jesus (the “Word of life” who was “from the beginning” (John 1:1-4)), “seen” and “looked upon” Him with their own eyes, and “handled” Him (Luke 24:39; John 20:27).

If we do not “hear” (listen to and accept) what the apostles have to say, do we know God?

- a. yes
- b. no

14. Must the church, today, uphold the word of God and hear the apostles’ teachings (which actually came from Jesus and are His commands) in order to be pleasing to God?

- a. yes
- b. no

Section 2 The Local Church

15. John 1:1-3, 14; Romans 9:5

Explanatory note: John was written by the *apostle* John, and Romans by the *apostle* Paul.

If a church, today, teaches that Jesus is not God, but is instead a created being, is that church upholding the word of God and hearing the apostles’ teachings?*

- a. yes
- b. no

* *Questions 15-17 ask about doctrines that are taught by many churches, today.*

16. Acts 8:38-39; Romans 6:4; Ephesians 4:5

Explanatory note: Ephesians was written by the *apostle* Paul.

If a church, today, teaches that baptism is not an immersion, or that baptism can be performed however a person prefers (including sprinkling or pouring), is that church upholding the word of God and hearing the apostles’ teachings?

- a. yes
- b. no

17. Acts 2:38; 22:16; Romans 6:3; Galatians 3:27; 1 Peter 3:21

Explanatory note: Acts 2:38 and 1 Peter 3:21 were spoken/written by the *apostle* Peter. Acts 22:16, Romans 6:3, and Galatians 3:27 were spoken/written by the *apostle* Paul.

If a church, today, teaches that our sins are forgiven and that we are in Christ and saved before we are baptized, is that church upholding the word of God and hearing the apostles' teachings?

- a. yes
- b. no

18. Matthew 15:9

Will teaching the commandments of men as if they were the doctrines of God cause our worship to be in vain (without profit)?

- a. yes
- b. no

19. John 4:23-24

Must we worship God in spirit and in truth both in order to please Him?

- a. yes
- b. no

20. In light of what we have learned—(1) that the church must uphold the word of God and hear the apostles' teachings; (2) that many churches do not do this; (3) that teaching the commandments of men as if they were the doctrines of God will cause our worship to be in vain; and (4) that our worship must be spirit and in truth—will worshipping with just any church please God?

- a. yes
- b. no

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**Thank you for completing Lesson 6!**