

BETHLEHEM

CHURCH



ROAD MAP

FOR

Church
Gathering

What is the Church

The church refers to a body of believers who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ. When we accept Jesus Christ as Savior, we are immediately placed by the Holy Spirit into one united spiritual Body, the church ([1 Corinthians 12:12-13](#)). The Bible refers to this body of believers as the bride of Christ ([Ephesians 5:23-32](#); [Revelation 19:7-8](#)), of which Christ is the Head ([Ephesians 1:22](#)). The formation of the church, the Body of Christ, began on the Day of Pentecost ([Acts 2:1-21, 38-47](#)) and will be completed at the coming of Christ for His own at the rapture ([1 Corinthians 15:51-52](#)).

The church is thus a unique spiritual organism designed by Christ, made up of all saved believers in this present age ([Ephesians 2:11-3:6](#)). The church is distinct from Israel ([1 Corinthians 10:32](#)), a mystery not revealed until this age ([Ephesians 3:1-6; 5:32](#)). The establishment of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures ([Acts 14:23, Galatians 1:2](#);

Click [here](#) for a video on the church

What does the Bible say about the gathering of a local church?

Members of the one spiritual Body are directed to associate themselves together in local assemblies ([1 Corinthians 11:18-20](#)). There are two ordinances (orders) of obedience given by Jesus that are given to the local church: water baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper. ([Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42](#)). As followers of Christ we should observe these acts of obedience through the local church.

Remember that culture and society in Jesus' time was very family centric and many of these early believers would be disowned from their families for believing Christ was the Messiah. The church is a family of God so many of the support mechanisms were found in that early church. While the church is not a substitute for family structure, it has many of the same elements.

What does God provide to us through the local church?

Act 2:42 tells us "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." These are the foundations of what God provides to us through Bethlehem Church

1. Deeper Learning of doctrine and faith

Imagine if we had to teach ourselves everything about Bible and what it means. It could prove to be a difficult challenge. We study and learn to develop a better relationship with God and to tell others about what he has done for us. ([1 Peter 3:15](#)). We should want to share the Hope

that God has given us and the church helps us develop a deeper understanding of all we received when we accepted Jesus as Savior.

2. Fellowship with like believers.

“You become like the five people you spend the most time with. Choose carefully.” Jim Rohn. The Bible tells us we should spend time together because it is important to reinforce those things we believe, especially as the world is trying to impart incorrect or improper information on us. ([Hebrews 10:25](#)). The more we spend time together the more we can learn and uplift one another, Iron sharpens Iron. ([Proverbs 27:17](#)). Spend time with those who are beneficial to your Christian growth.

3. Breaking of bread - The Lord’s Supper

Jesus instructed the early believers to observe this remembrance. It was an order from the Lord, an ordinance, which is to be observed as a body of believers ([1 Corinthians 11:23-26](#)). Observing this in a group setting is a powerful reminder of what Jesus did for the church.

4. Praying: teaching people to pray, practicing prayer daily

We have been provided with a tremendous tool, prayer. It is a direct link to God; it gives us the ability to talk directly with God. It keeps us centered when we pray and it provides us with peace as we understand that God is in control and we have a direct link to Him ([Philippians 4:6-7](#)). We are instructed to pray together ([Romans 15:30](#)) and we are expected to teach new believers about prayer ([Matthew 6:9-13](#)) and how to develop a relationship with God.

Helpful Materials on the Church

Video resources on the Church

[Why is church attendance / going to church important](#) by Got Questions.

The Bible tells us we need to attend church so we can worship God with other believers and be taught His Word for our spiritual growth.

[What is the church?](#) by Central Films

A simple description of the church.

[Church History EXPLAINED in FIFTEEN MINUTES! | A.D. 33 - PRESENT](#) by Allen Parr

Have you ever wondered how the church became what it is today? Who were the main people who paved the way for the modern church? How and when did we get all of our denominations? What were the main events that occurred throughout the history of

Christianity? What were some of the struggles of the early church and how did it evolve into what it is today? These and other questions we will answer in this video!

[Do Christians need to go to church?](#) by Allen Parr

Have you gotten strayed away from going to church on a consistent basis? Or you're going but you're not involved? Today I want to talk about why you need to get back in church.