



**I AM A CHURCH MEMBER/BTU CHURCH-IN-TRAINING**

**MOUNT CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

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**2024 Theme: “Let’s “BE” The Church” (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 6:16; Matthew 5:14 – 16)**

## **I AM A CHURCH MEMBER**

*Discovering the Attitude that Makes the Difference*

### **Introduction**

What is a Church and Why On Earth Does The Church Exist?

If someone were to ask a church member, “What is a church?”, I’m sure that there would be a long list of answers and we can talk extensively about what a church is not.

Sometime people define or judge the church based on another person’s actions or their character. Others may describe or label the church from one of their experience with a parishioner.

The Greek word for the word church is “ecclesia” which means “called out gathering or assembly”.

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**Please memorize this definition of the word church.**

**“The church is a called out assembly of scripturally baptized believers  
coveted together set out to do the will of God.”**

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It took 200 years to build and 700 years later, work continues to be done to correct the errors in construction. The building will probably still topple despite efforts to save it. Though it is world famous, it has gained attention not for its beauty but for its flawed construction. Today it is off limits to people, and is considered a safety hazard. Do you know which building I’m speaking of?.....It is, of course, the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

The tower leans because of an error in the foundation.

Rarely do we see the foundation of a building or think about its value. Yet, it is the most important part of the building. The structural soundness and thus the value of a building is determined by its foundation!

I believe it is vitally important that we revisit the foundational purposes of the church. I believe that the church can never function properly until we understand, and undertake its purposes as designed by the Master Builder....the Chief Cornerstone....who is the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Matthew 16:13 – 19 (KJV)**

<sup>13</sup> When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

<sup>14</sup> And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

<sup>15</sup> He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

<sup>16</sup> And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

<sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

<sup>18</sup> And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

<sup>19</sup> And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Jesus is The *Founder*, The *Foundation*, and The Reason why we *Function*.

We'll never know if we're doing our job until we know who we are and why we exist.

The church exists to **glorify** God “to **render honor** to God” and to **magnify** God.

**God is glorified when the.....**

**1. Savior is Magnified!**

John the Baptist in one sentence sums up his ministry, and I believe this gives us a great definition of “glorifying God”. John 3:30, “He must increase...I must decrease”.

To glorify God is to enlarge, to exalt, to magnify. The church is to glorify God. We glorify God when we magnify his Son, and our Savior the Lord Jesus Christ.

**God is glorified when.....**

**2. Self is Minimized.**

The church is not about me....not about you.....It's about him. It's not about look at me.....but look at Jesus.....it's not about follow me.....but follow Jesus. I'm afraid sometimes so much of what is done at many churches is for self-edification....and self-gratification....and if that's the case.....then it can't be about “glorification.” The church is really not even about the church.....it's about Christ!!!

**God is glorified when there is.....**

**3. Singleness of Mind.**

Romans 15:5–6 (KJV)

<sup>5</sup> Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:

<sup>6</sup> That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God cannot be honored or glorified where there is *division*, *disunity* and *disarray*.

**God is glorified when the....****4. Scripture is Modeled.**Acts 2:42 – 47

<sup>42</sup> And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

<sup>43</sup> And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

<sup>44</sup> And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

<sup>45</sup> And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

<sup>46</sup> And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

<sup>47</sup> Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

The early church where God was moving, and working....was a church that modeled the scripture. They met continually studying it....teaching..and being taught....and they modeled the scripture! The church in which God is glorified is not only a Bible preaching church.....but it is a Bible living church! 1 Peter 2:12

James 1:22, “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves”

Psalms 119:105, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

**God is glorified when the.....****5. Spirit is Minded.**

John 16:14, “He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you.”

The work of the Holy Spirit is to witness of Christ.

Ephesians 5:18-19.... <sup>18</sup>be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord. <sup>19</sup> What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

We are commanded to be filled with the Spirit....to be beneath his control.....the result is glorifying Christ.....

**God is glorified when....****6. Saints are Multiplied.**

When people come to know the Lord, God is glorified! That is the fulfillment of the great commission, Matthew 28:19–20. We must go, preach the word, baptizing, and making disciples.

We as a church exist to glorify God.....we do this by pointing people to Christ....by magnifying him.....by preaching the word....by obeying the word....by being filled with his Spirit! Is your life about self or the Savior.....is it about gratification or glorification?

**Homework For Next Week (To be discussed not to turn in - ☺)**

List characteristics that church should **NOT** possess in alphabetical order

The church should **NOT** be...

(The first one is pastor's answers – you all come up with two more ☺)

- A. Anti-Christ \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Bullying \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Cruel \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Devilish \_\_\_\_\_
- E. Evil \_\_\_\_\_
- F. Fake \_\_\_\_\_
- G. God-less \_\_\_\_\_
- H. Hope-less \_\_\_\_\_
- I. Inconsiderate \_\_\_\_\_
- J. Jealous \_\_\_\_\_
- K. Kingless \_\_\_\_\_
- L. Lazy \_\_\_\_\_
- M. Messy \_\_\_\_\_
- N. Negative \_\_\_\_\_
- O. Offensive \_\_\_\_\_
- P. Petty \_\_\_\_\_
- Q. Quiet \_\_\_\_\_
- R. Ruthless \_\_\_\_\_
- S. Sinful \_\_\_\_\_
- T. Tiresome \_\_\_\_\_
- U. Unkind \_\_\_\_\_
- V. Vindictive \_\_\_\_\_
- W. Weak \_\_\_\_\_
- X. X-ray Machine \_\_\_\_\_
- Y. Youth-less \_\_\_\_\_
- Z. Zeal-less \_\_\_\_\_