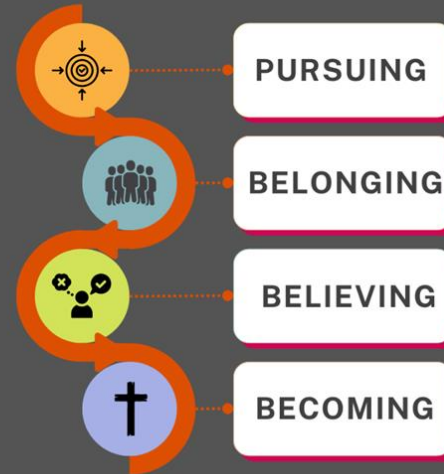


# What is the *Church*?

Steve Shenk

11/17/24

## MY NEXT STEPS



PURSUIT CHURCH 

1230 McCulloch Rd, Orlando, FL  
[www.pursuitorlando.com](http://www.pursuitorlando.com)



## Christian Knowledge

This is about knowing what God has revealed to us about who he is and what is important to him and how he revealed himself in Jesus Christ.

## Christian Living

This is about how we are to respond to God's presence in our lives. How to know him, pray, use his word, and worship him

## Growth in Christ

## Christian Training

This is about the how to's: How can I share the gospel with others?; How can I be hospitable? The answers to these questions will change as culture changes, but, we need to "be prepared to make a defense for the hope that is us" when God gives the opportunity.

## Christian Serving

This is about serving and doing and practicing what we have learned. It is about how do we work together in the church to do God's will.

# What is the Church?

- **It's Jesus' Spiritual Building**
  - Matt 16:18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
- **All Believers of All Time**

# What is the Church?

## It's an Inclusive Church

- It's Invisible

- 2 Tim 2:19 *But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."*

# It's Visible

Matt 13:24-30 He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and some weeds among the wheat and went away. So, when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also.

And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?'

He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So, the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?'

But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them.

Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, "Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned but gather the wheat into my barn."'"

# Where is the Church?

- **It's in a House**

- 1Cor 16:19 The churches of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord.

- **It's in a Whole City**

- 1Thes 1:1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

# Where is the Church?

- **It's in a Region**

- Acts 9:31 So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

- **It's in the Whole World**

- Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her



# What Does the Church Look Like?

- **It's a Family**

- 1 Tim 5:1-2 Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.



- **It's a Body**

- 1 Cor 12:14-18 For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as He chose.

# What Does the Church Look Like?

- **It's a Temple**

- 1 Pet 2:4-6 As you come to Him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. or it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame."

- **It's a Holy Priesthood**

- 1 Pet 2:5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

# What Does the Church Look Like?

- **It's Branches on a Vine**

- John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

- **It's an Olive Tree**

- Romans 11:17-21 But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree... Then you will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will He spare you.

# What Does the Church Look Like?

- **It's a Planted Field**

- 1 Cor 3:6-9 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So, neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field

# What Makes a Church a Church?

- **Rightly Handling the Word**

- 1 Tim 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

- **Rightly Administering the Sacraments**

- **Baptism - Acts 2:38** And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- **Lord’s Supper – Luke 22:19-20** And He took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” And likewise, the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.”

# What Makes a Church a Church?

## Encourage Official Membership in the Local Church

- Hebrews 10:25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

# What Makes a Church a Church?

- **Purity of the Body**

- Eph 5:26-27 that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that He might present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish

- **Unity of the Body**

- John 17:21 that they may all be one, just as You, Father, are in me, and I in You, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that You have sent me.



# What is the Church Supposed to do?

## Minister to God

- Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
- Eph 1:12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of His glory.
- **Worship**
- John 4:24 God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

# What is the Church Supposed to do?

## Minister to Members

- **Spiritually**

- Col 1:28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.
- Eph 4:12-13 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

# What is the Church Supposed to do?

- **Physically**

- Acts 11:29 So the disciples determined, everyone according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers<sup>[a]</sup> living in Judea.
- 2 Cor 8:2-4 for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints.
- John 3:17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

# What is the Church Supposed to do?

## Minister to the World

- **Preaching the Gospel in Word**
- Matt 28:18-20 and Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
- Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
- **Preaching the Gospel in Deed**
- James 2:8 If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well.

# The Power of the Church

## The Holy Spirit

- **The Ability to Understand Scripture and Obey the Word of God**
- John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.
- **The Power to Preach the Gospel**
- Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
- **The Power for the Building Up of the Church thru Spiritual Gifts**
- 1 Cor 12:7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

# Questions

1. How is a church different from a Bible study or Christian retreat?
2. Why should a Christian become a member of a local church? What are some dangers of not becoming a member of a local church?
3. Can you list some of the things a local church is supposed to do? Can you name some specific examples of the Holy Spirit's work empowering and blessing some of those things in Pursuit?



# Upcoming Sessions!

11/17/24	11	What is the church?	How do we live with other believers?	Christian Beliefs Ch 17	Steve Shenk
	12	Action Step			
11/24/24	13	Can I be sure that I am saved?	Having assurance of your salvation	Growing in Christ, Ch 1	Bryan Rosenbaum
12/1/24	14	Assurance of answered prayer	How to pray	Growing in Christ, Ch 2	Tony Guzman
12/8/24	15	Assurance of Victory	God promises to help	Growing in Christ, Ch 3	Isaac Tuckey