

WHY WE ABSOLUTELY NEED A CHURCH FAMILY

How God Meets Our Five Deepest Needs Through the Church – Part 1

WHAT A CHURCH IS NOT...

- **A CHURCH IS NOT A BUILDING.**
- **A CHURCH IS NOT AN INSTITUTION.**
- **A CHURCH IS NOT A PLACE I GO TO OR AN EVENT I ATTEND.**

WHAT A CHURCH IS...

- **A CHURCH IS A SPIRITUAL FAMILY THAT I BELONG TO.**

Acts 2:41-42, 46 (NLT) Those who BELIEVED... were BAPTIZED and ADDED to the church. 42All the believers COMMITTED THEMSELVES to the apostles' TEACHING, and to FELLOWSHIP... 46They WORSHIPED together at the Temple each day, MET IN HOMES (small groups) for the Lord's Supper, and SHARED their MEALS with great joy and generosity.

Definition: A CHURCH is a group of baptized believers, who've joined together in a COMMITMENT to help each other fulfill God's five PURPOSES for their lives.

WHY IS THE CHURCH THE MOST IMPORTANT GROUP ON EARTH?

1. The Church is God's FAMILY.

1 Peter 1:3 (TLB) God has given us the privilege of being born again, so that we're now members of God's own family.

1 Timothy 3:15 (NCV) That family is the church of the living God, the support and foundation of the truth.

2. The Church is the only reason God CREATED the universe.

Ephesians 1:4-5 (NLT) *Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. 5 God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.*

3. The Church is being used by God for His eternal PURPOSES.

Ephesians 3:10 (NIV) *His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, 11 according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Ephesians 3:10 (MSG) *Through Christians like yourselves, gathered in churches, this extraordinary plan of God is becoming known and talked about even among angels.*

4. Jesus DIED for his church.

Ephesians 5:25 & 27 (NCV) *Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it. 27 He died, so that he could give the church to Himself, like a bride in all of her beauty, and he died so that the church could become pure and without fault.*

5. The Church is the only thing on earth that is going to LAST FOREVER.

Ephesians 3:21 (NLT) *Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever!*

6. The Church is the only group that Jesus said would SUCCEED.

Matthew 16:18 (Jesus) *"I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it."*

1 Peter 1:3 (TLB) *God has given us the privilege of being born again, so that we're now members of God's own family.*

Proverbs 19:21 *Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.*

THE FIVE WAYS GOD USES A CHURCH FAMILY TO MEET MY DEEPEST NEEDS:

- 1. A church family helps me FOCUS on God – WORSHIP.**
- 2. A church family helps me FACE life's problems – FELLOWSHIP.**
- 3. A church family helps me FORTIFY my faith – DISCIPLESHIP.**
- 4. A church family helps me FIND my place to MAKE a difference - MINISTRY.**
- 5. A church family helps me FULFILL my life calling – MISSION**