

A Church Centred Life

Why is it necessary for a saint to get involved in the church? Even to the extent of planning all his activities with church centeredness. Why are there so many conflicts and problems within the church? Why is it that churches continue to separate into so many denominations? What kind of church does God delight in? It is through the proper understanding of the above queries regarding the church and formally getting involved in the church that a truly saved believer can begin to live a blessed life.

1. What is “Church”?

- 1) “Children of God” that belong to the heavenly kingdom eternally, whom God had graciously chosen <1Pe 2:9>
- 2) “Body of Christ” who went through death and resurrection with Christ <Eph 1:22-23>
- 3) “Dwelling place of the Holy Spirit”, one who is born again through the baptism of water and of the holy spirit <1Co 3:16>
- 4) “The pillar and foundation of the Truth” that was set apart by God’s Word (Bible) <1Ti 3:15>
- 5) Citizens of God’s kingdom who belong to body of Christ; Through worships, fellowships and nurturing, we are strengthened and grow together; Through preaching and missions, children belonging to the heavenly kingdom are gathered together to fulfil “World Evangelism” <Mt 28:18-20; Ac 1:8>
- 6) Must understand the concept of “Universal Church” and “Local Church”, as well as “the Invisible Church” and “the Physical Church”

2. How did God develop His church in history?

- 1) Family church (Adam ~ Moses): centred on the “blood offering” – Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham
- 2) Civilisation church (Moses ~ Christ): Value the three major feasts, “Feast of Unleavened Bread”, “Feast of Harvest”, “Feast of In-gathering” <Exodus 23:14-17>
 - (1) “The Out of Egypt (Exodus) Church” of the Passover (Salvation)
 - (2) “The Tent of Meeting Church” of the wilderness (Guidance and Power)
 - (3) “The Holy Temple Church” when Conquering Canaan (Evangelism)
 - (4) “Synagogues Church” during Period of Captivity (Mission)
- 3) New Testament: Church of the end days
 - (1) Fulfilment of the cross of Christ
 - (2) Descending of the Holy Spirit
 - (3) Nurturing and evangelising
 - (4) World mission works

3. Why is it necessary for Believers to get involved in the church? (Five objectives of the church)

- 1) Worship and holy ceremonial <Isa 6:1-13; Rev 4:1, 5:14; Ac 2:1-4>
- 2) Communication within Christ’s body <Eph 4:2-3; Ac 2:41-47>
- 3) Training and Nurturing <Eph 4:12; Ac 11:19-30; 19:8-20; 28:30-31>
- 4) Local evangelism <Ac 2:47, 4:4, 5:14, 6:7...>
- 5) World mission works <Ac 13:1-3...>

4. Must understand God's given "talents" and "roles" <Ro 12:3-8, Eph 4:1-16, 1Co 12-14>

- 1) Let "edifying and development of Christ's body" and "the expansion of God's Kingdom" be our purpose <Eph 4:16>
- 2) The Church should allocate roles in accordance to what Christ has apportioned upon each one in Christ name <Eph 4:7; Ac 6:5-6; 1Ti 3:1-13>
- 3) Talents will grow with training and experience in serving, thus roles will also be adjusted accordingly <Mt 25:14-30>
- 4) Those who serve should respect God's given talents and roles in serving God and other parts of Christ's body faithfully <1Ti 4:6-16>
- 5) Must also respect parts of Christ's body for their talents and roles. United as one to glorify God and expand the Lord's body <Eph 4:11-16>

5. What must be done in order to achieve a healthy church life? <Ac 2:41-47; 11:19-30>

- 1) Must earnestly choose or build a church which is "Christ centred and has the vision for world evangelism" <Rev 2-3, seven types of churches>
- 2) A blessed believer will keep his focus on the church while making plans for oneself, one's family, one's workplace and all other fields
- 3) To sincerely participate in various church activities and through worships, communication and nurturing, continue to seek after a complete growth in the body, heart and spirit
- 4) Life in church must practically expand to the daily living fields and must bear the fruits of "God's Word, Prayers and Evangelism"
- 5) By using God's given talents, serve wholeheartedly in suitable ministries, thus enlarging the ministry widely and deeply