

# The Universal Church

- The Church is not a physical building, it's a group of believers, a Spiritual Body
- What is Christ's position in the church and how is the church described?
  - Col. 1:18; Eph. 5:23
- What did it cost Christ to purchase the church?
  - Acts 20:28
- How does a person become a member of the body of Christ?
  - Col. 3:15
  - 1 Cor. 12:13

# The Local Church

- The early church met on the first day of the week
  - Acts 20:7
- Before church buildings, they met in houses
  - Rom. 16:5, 1 Cor. 16:19
- Four things the church was devoted to (Acts 2:42)
  - Apostles doctrine (teaching)
  - Fellowship (encouraging each other)
  - Breaking bread
  - Prayers

# The Local Church

- Organization of the local church
  - Gifted men (Eph. 4:11-12)
    - Apostles
    - Prophets
    - Evangelists
    - Pastors and teachers
  - For what purpose?
    - Perfecting of the saints
    - For ministry
    - Edifying of the church
  - For how long?

# The Local Church

- Organization of the local church
  - Elders / Overseers (1 Tim. 3:1-7, Ti. 1:6-9)
    - Two major responsibilities of an elder
      - Feed the flock
      - Take oversight
    - Responsibility of believers to the elders (Heb. 13:17)
      - Submit to their authority
      - Why?
        - » Give a good report
  - Deacons (means servant): 1 Tim. 3:8-13
    - To minister to the needs of the flock under the direction of the elders

# The Local Church

- Members of the body
  - We are not to neglect the assembly of ourselves together (Heb. 10:25)
  - Heb. 13:7
    - We are to observe the godly lives of those that teach God's word and follow their example of faith
  - How should we act towards other members of the body (1 Cor. 12:25)
    - Care for each other; no schisms

# Fellowship

- Fellowship comes from the Greek word *koinonia*
  - Participation with others in a common purpose
- Unity within the church
  - God has a desire for every church (1 Cor. 1:10)
  - What promotes unity (Eph. 4:2-3)
    - Lowliness and meekness with longsuffering
    - Forbearing one another in love
    - Keeping the unity of the Spirit

# Fellowship

- Fellowship involves ministering to other believers, the following show us how
  - Rom. 14:19
    - Through peace to edify
  - Gal. 5:13
    - Serving each other
  - Gal. 6:2
    - Bearing each others burdens
  - Jms. 5:16
    - Praying for each other
  - We have the ability to serve each other (1 Pet. 4:10-11)

# Worship

- God seeks genuine worshipers
  - Jn. 4:23-24
- We worship God because He is worthy (Rev. 4:10-11)
  - Worthy to receive glory and honor
- Worshiping God involves praise (Ps. 66:4)
- Worshiping God involves reverence
  - Ex. 34:8; bowing
  - Lk. 7:1-7; realizing God is not on our same level
  - Rev. 1:17; falling down prostrate