

ULaity Missionary Baptist Church's ZOOM Bible Study Class for Saturday,
August 27th, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

Topic: The Christian Church:

**Its Role, Functions, and Prayerfully, Its Values, Mannerisms,
and Movements in the Societies of Our World**

References Used: The New Open Bible Study Edition

Opening Holy Scriptures:

Matthew 28:18-20: And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen.

Acts 1:8: But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts: 11:25-26: 25 Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul.

26 And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

Questions to Consider:

- 1) What IS the Christian church/its definition?**
- 2) Why did the LORD God Almighty, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit create the Christian church?**
- 3) What is the origin of the church?**
- 4) Who is the Head of the Christian church?**
- 5) What ARE the purposes of the Christian church? Why do we assemble together? What should we, as a Christian church, be doing?**
- 6) What are the benefits for a person or people in participating in the local church?**
- 7) How do some churches "get off track"? How do we "get back on track"?**

What is the Christian church/its definition?

**Definition of “the Christian church”: the followers of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Dictionary definition: A body or organization of religious believers**

Who is the Head of the Christian church?

**Ephesians 1:20-23: 20 Which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,
21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.
22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,
23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.**

**Colossians 1:15-18: 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.
16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.
17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.
18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.**

Matthew 16:18: And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

What are the purposes of the Christian church? Why do we assemble together?

**Acts 2:41-43: 41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.
42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.
43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.**

Acts 2:44-45: 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

Acts 2:46-47: 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of hearts,

47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

- We Christians want to **worship** the LORD God Almighty!!!
- We Christians want to **bring honor, praise, and glory** to the **Head** of the church, the Lord Jesus Christ---Our Savior!!!
- We Christians want to **spread the word** about the goodness and grace of Our Savior ---The Great Commission written in Matthew 28:19-20 (evangelism)
- We Christians want to **teach others** to observe what Lord Jesus Christ has commanded us to observe/do.

II Timothy 3:16-17: 16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Romans 12:9-21: Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.

10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;

11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;

12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;

13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

14 Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse.

15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.

18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay says the Lord.

20 Therefore, "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will reap coals of fire on his head."

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Hebrews 10:24-25: And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

- We Christians want to help other people.
- We Christians want to edify/build each other up—to obtain spiritual maturity.
- We Christians need to be able to perform the work the LORD God has for each person to do.

Ephesians 4:11-16: And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

14 that we should no longer be children tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head---Christ---

16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

What are the benefits for a person or people in participating in the local church?

Worshipping the LORD God Almighty; **Instruction/Education;** **fellowship** with other believers/like-minded people; the **observance** of the ordinances like the “breaking of bread”; group/corporate **prayer**; learning how to **reach others** effectively; understanding our **common cause**; learning how to **help each other** and actually doing that---assisting each other; **learning how to obey** the LORD God’s commandments/discipline; pastoral oversight

1 Peter 5:1-4: **1** The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:

2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;

3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;

4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

It is extremely important that we learn about the “ways” of the LORD God Almighty, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit.

We get “off track” when we are ignorant of WHO the LORD God Is, HOW He would have us to be, and WHAT He would have us to do.

Here is just one recent example of how “sin” creeps in an assembly when an individual is ignorant of God’s Word.

After the morning worship service, a church member approached the pastor and criticized him and his sermons. She felt more visitors/people should be giving their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ, joining the church, and participating in the church’s functions and activities. She believed this wasn’t happening, due to his preaching, and perhaps even his conduct. Can you imagine the “repercussions” that can happen as a result of her words? Under the guidance and teachings of the Holy Spirit, people should be able to express their concerns, give suggestions, lovingly reprove each other, and help edify each other. However, there is an appropriate time and place. Again, we need to teach ourselves and others the ways of the LORD God, and obey Him. If given the opportunity to converse with her, again, here are a few verses of Holy Scripture I would lovingly share with her.

I Thessalonians 5:12-13: And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, 13 and to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake. Be at peace among yourselves.

Hebrews 13:7: Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.

I Timothy 5:17: Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.

Titus: 2:6-7: Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, 7 in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine, showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility.

Closing Scripture:

Ephesians 3:20-21: Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.

21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

