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# Infusion

Become

Believe

Belong

Befriend

#4 A New Family  
(The Body of Christ)

INFUSING THE LIFE FOUND IN CHRIST  
THROUGH FAITH IN GOD'S VITAL PRECEPTS,  
MAKING EVERY MEMBER WHOLE

SPIRIT SOUL & BODY

# The Body of Christ

## A New Family

### Session 4

~♦✠♦♦♦✠♦♦♦~ **BECOME** ~♦✠♦♦♦✠♦♦♦~

Just as you were physically born into a family, so it is when you are spiritually born. You enter into a new family, the family of God. By the means of the New Birth you were translated out of the Kingdom of Darkness into the Kingdom of Light.

Just as a new born baby needs to be nurtured by a family, so your faith needs to be nurtured. This is so that you can grow and develop spiritually.

All Christians belong to one body and Jesus is the head. As a member of his body, which is known as the church, you should become a member of a local New Testament church that believes the word of God and exalts Jesus as the Way, the Truth and the Life.

#### **Acts 4:12**

*Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."*

As a Christian we have \_\_\_\_\_ with other believers.

#### **Romans 12:5**

*So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one member's one of another.*

A Christian should have regular \_\_\_\_\_ with other Christians.

#### **Hebrews 10:25**

*Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

# I. New Father

## *Acts 16:31*

*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved.*

As we covered in sessions on the NEW BIRTH; *Romans 10:9,10* says that if you confess that Jesus is LORD, you will be saved. It's not enough to simply believe in Him like a child believes in the tooth fairy.

He must be Lord over your life. Believing in Jesus as Lord means to trust in, surrender to, and rely upon Him as Savior from sin, and Master and Ruler of your life.

Before receiving Jesus, you thought you were your own master. You believed you made decisions by your own will and emotions. When actually, you were under the dominion of Satan and were a subject in his Kingdom.

## *Colossians 1:12,13*

*12. giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.*

*13. For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, (NIV)*

Now that Jesus is Lord you have been birthed into the Kingdom of Heaven. You must, moment by moment, allow Christ to direct your life.

## *Proverbs 3:6*

*In all thy ways acknowledge him and he will direct thy paths. (KJV)*

The response of a New Spirit toward Christ is \_\_\_\_\_.

## *2 Corinthians 5:15*

*And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.*

**We should give him \_\_\_\_\_.**

## *Romans 12:1, 2*

*1. Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's*

*mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. (NIV)*

*2. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will. (NIV)*

Your new Spirit finds it easy to \_\_\_\_\_ God's commands, and this is the evidence of your love of God. Your spirit is very willing, but your flesh is weak and unwilling.

***John 14:21***

*Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."*

What do you think pleases Him most calling Him Lord or doing what He says?

***Luke 6:46, 47***

*46. And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*

*47 I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice.*

**A person is truly loving God, when they come to him, Hear what He says, and then they DO IT!**

In the passage that follows Jesus describes the man who puts his words into practice, as a man who built his house on a rock so that it stands through storms.

Three areas of our lives that should show evidence that Christ is Lord are:

<i>Our time</i>	<b><i>Ephesians 5:16</i></b>
<i>Our interest</i>	<b><i>Philippians 2:3-4</i></b>
<i>Our welfare</i>	<b><i>Romans 8:28</i></b>

The scripture basis for the reality of Christ as Lord and dwelling in us and our having a completely regenerated life is

***Galatians 2:20***

*20. (Paraphrased) ...I, myself, am no longer living, but Christ lives in me and the real life within me is a result of*

*trust in Christ who died for me.*

## **The cost of making Jesus Lord:**

A disciple of Jesus must forsake all else:

***Luke 14:33***

*In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.*

There are three things necessary to follow Jesus:

***Luke 9:23***

*Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Following Jesus means The Holy Spirit will lead us to stop doing some things and sometimes to start doing some things. At all times we should be committed to Him and His perfect will for our lives. We must have open hearts, activated faith, and willing minds.

If we follow Jesus we will receive rewards \_\_\_\_\_ and in the \_\_\_\_\_.

***Mark 10:30***

*but he shall receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.*

## **GOD'S CHILDREN SHOULD BE DIFFERENT FROM THE WORLD.**

How will the world know that you are a disciple of Jesus?

***John 13:35***

*by this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

What should be your attitude toward other Christians?

***1John 3:14***

*We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not abideth in death.*

**Romans 15:7**

*Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.*

What should your attitude be toward fallen Christians?

**Galatians 6:1**

*Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.*

Should you keep company or have close fellowship with a Christian that is living in sin?

**I Corinthians 5:11**

*But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.*

What should your relationship be to the unbelievers?

**II Corinthians 6:14**

*14. Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?*

*15. What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?*

*16. What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."(NIV)*

What relationship should we have with those who cause division?

**Romans 16:17, 18**

*17. I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.*

*18 for they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.*

Jesus prayed that believers should be kept from the \_\_\_\_\_ .

**John 17:15-17**

- 15. *My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.*
- 16. *they are not of the world, even as I am not of it.*
- 17. *Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.*

## II. THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

**A. Getting with other Family Members.**

**Acts 2:46, 47**

- 46. *Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,*
- 47. *Praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

**B. When you faithfully attend you will be \_\_\_\_\_ by others in the faith.**

**Hebrews 10:24, 25**

- 24. *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.*
- 25. *Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

**C. Your faith will \_\_\_\_\_ by hearing God's word.**

**Romans 10:17**

*So, then, faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

**D. Fellowship helps us stay \_\_\_\_\_.**

**1 John 1:7**

*but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.*

**E. God inspires the messages given by the speaker. You can think of them as divine appointments where you will get specific instructions for the next assignment corporately and individually. Missing them leads to a dry spirit and**

disaster.

### III. New View of the World

- A. Jesus wants you to relate to the world with the same \_\_\_\_\_ He had.

**John 17:18**

*as you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.*

- B. Jesus came into the world to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Luke 19:10**

*For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”*

- C. God is \_\_\_\_\_ toward the lost.

**2 Peter 3:9**

*The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

- D. Can the lost be saved without someone telling them?

**Romans 10:14**

*How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?*

### IV. Who is over the church?

- A. The church is organized by \_\_\_\_\_!

**Matthew 16:18**

*and I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*

- B. \_\_\_\_\_ is the head of the church.

**Colossians 1:18**

*And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.*

- C. \_\_\_\_\_ is the foundation of the church.

**1 Corinthians 3:11**

*for no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

- D. Jesus is the way of salvation and is the Head of the church and His commands are to be obeyed.

*Matthew 28:19, 20*  
*John 7:37-39*

*Mark 14:16*  
*Acts 1:4, 5 & 2:1-4*

*Acts 1:8*

## **V. Committing to my Church**

The word church means something different to most people than what Christ intended it to be to us. We should compare our thoughts to the days of the early church. In this class, we will ask and answer the following questions.

- 1) What is the Biblical local church?
- 2) Why do you need a local Church?
- 3) How do you become a good citizen in the Kingdom of God?

### **I. What is the Biblical local Church?**

“The church is not a building, nor a religious institution, nor an ethnic group. It is the company of the committed, or the covenant community, where we are brothers and sisters because we are in fellowship with Christ. The church is the people--the redeemed people of God. It is God’s primary program in, or on the earth. It is the visible expression of the rule of Christ (author unknown).

A.Church comes from the Greek word “*Ecclesia*” which means” \_\_\_\_\_ . The church, then, is a group of individuals “called out” of the spiritual darkness of sin to be a separated people for God.

**Please take a moment here and think about this. Church then is not just a place where you go to attend your preferred style of worship services, but it is where you connect to both Christ’s body and His will for your life. The “FINDING MY PLACE” seminar will help you discover your gifts and abilities.**

### **I. Why do you need a local church?**

Your church presents the teaching of the Bible and gives you opportunity to explore and embrace much more of God’s Word than you could on your own. Teachers, pastors, apostles, prophets and the testimonies of believers presenting what they have gained from their walk with the Lord are abundant. All glean from the richness of Christ working among them as He leads them to enrich and strengthen each other.

**A.** The truths you will learn to live in will destroy attitudes Satan's Kingdom. Attitudes in which the church can give protection:

1. Pride--Proverbs 6:17; Matthew 7:22
2. Independence--Proverbs 3:5, 28:26
3. Hardened heart--Mark 7:6
4. Rebellion--I Samuel 15:23
5. Moral impurity--Romans 1:18-32
6. Gullibility--Proverbs 14:15

**B.** You receive \_\_\_\_\_ care.

***Hebrews 13:17***

*Says: that godly pastors care for and look after your spiritual condition, giving an account unto the Lord for your soul.*

1. People need love, security, direction, friendship, fellowship, and help during troubled times (*Romans 12:13; Hebrews 13:2; Acts 2:44-46, 4:32*). You will be both receiving from and giving to others.
2. There is spiritual protection under the shelter of the local church community. Without the covering of the local church, one is exposing themselves to an onslaught of the devil's attacks, such as:
  - Evil spirits (*Acts 19:12-16*),
  - Deception (*I Timothy 4:1*),
  - Spiritual storms (*Matthew 7:24, 25*),
  - False teaching (*II Peter 2:1*),
  - & even death (*II Corinthians 7:10*).

**C.** Your family is strengthened.

1. Teachings on such subjects such as family relations, youth, and children are provided in a local church in order to strengthen your family.

## VI. Being a good citizen in the Kingdom

Just as any community has boundaries and ideals that maintain peace and healthy living known as citizenship; the church community also has such ethics. Except, in His kingdom, the Lord Himself leads us in peace and unity both by His Spirit and through the leadership He put in place.

- A.** God leads and calls people to a local church. If you believe that God has called you to connect with this body then you should exercise your faith and \_\_\_\_\_ to it. It is your Daddy's house. Leadership can recognize those who know they are in their Father's house because they will:
1. Commit to and support the \_\_\_\_\_ of the house (proverbs 29:18).
  2. Attend services regularly.
  3. Be drawn to and connect to ministry groups in the church. (*Philemon 1:2, Romans 16:5, Colossians 4:15*). This may be a group that studies the word such as Sunday School Class, Youth, Men's or Ladies' Bible Study Group meetings or a home fellowship, or it may be a group that ministers by serving needs, Pantry helps, Fellowship workers, building projects, Prison ministry and so on.
- B.** Accept Gods designated place for you in the Body of Christ.
1. God sets members in as it pleases Him (*I Corinthians 12:11, 18*).
  2. We are to think soberly of ourselves. Ask the Lord to show you your gifts as well as your limitations (*Romans 12:3,4*).
  3. Pitch in your talents to help make His Kingdom greater. *2 Cor. 1:11*
- C.** Pray for the church's leadership, the members, and the various ministries (*II Corinthians 13:7, Colossians 1:9*).
- D.** Make the work of the leadership easier by readily following their lead. (*Hebrews 13:7, 17; I Peter 5:5; Ephesians*

5:21).

- E. Financially support the ministries of the local church through tithes and offerings (*Genesis 14:18-20, 28:22; Proverbs 3:9; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 23:23; Luke 6:38*).
- F. Be faithful (*Proverbs 20:6, I Corinthians 4:2, II Timothy 2:2*).

## **VII. \_\_\_\_\_ to one another.**

- A. Develop a servant spirit, serving the Body of Christ in love (*I Corinthians 13*).
- B. Edify members of the Body. Encourage others and help them grow strong and mature in Christ (*I Corinthians 14:3-5; Romans 14:1-3, 7-8, 12-21; Ephesians 4:12, 15, 16*).
- C. Exhort members of the Body. If a Christian you know becomes involved in sin and falls away from the Lord and the Body of Christ, look for opportunities to help them get back into fellowship with God and the church. But do stay in touch with leaders who can assist you so that you yourself don't fall or disrupt what God may be doing. More help on this is coming in the **Believe & Belong** level. (*Galatians 6:1, Ruth 4:15, Isaiah 58:12, Psalm 23:3*)

### **Exercise:**

**What is the overall purpose for the Church?**

**What vision does this church have?**

**THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: Genesis 11-30**

*Use the Bible Study tool as you read. Return your completed form for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment:*

**ANSWERS:**

- Pg. 2** spiritual membership, fellowship
- Pg. 3,** submission
- Pg 4** Worship, obey
- Pg. 5** Deny Self, Take up your cross, Follow Jesus.
- Pg. 6** Now, world to come
- Pg. 7** Evil one
- Pg. 8** Built up, grow, clean
- Pg. 9** Mission, Save it, Patient, Jesus, Jesus
- Pg. 10** Jesus, Called out ones
- Pg. 11** Pastoral
- Pg. 12** Commit, Vision
- Pg, 13** Submit