

# Lesson 4: The Church Gathering

When you become a Christian, you are a member of God’s family. Every spiritual child needs to become a part of a spiritual family. God is your heavenly father, and all Christians are like brothers and sisters of the same family. “This household is the church of the living God...” (1 Timothy 3:15). The household is not a building, and the “church” is not a place of worship, but a group of believers.

## I. How does the Bible describe the relationship between Jesus and Christians?

(Romans 12:5)

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(Ephesians 1:22-23)

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## II. What is Christ’s position in the church?

(Ephesians 5:23)

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## III. The Functions of the Church

Functions	Verse	Your Needs
Worship	“Praise God, sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the saints.” (Psalms 149:1)	to worship God
Fellowship	“And let us consider how we can spur one another on toward love and good deeds.” (Hebrews 10:24)	to share
Teaching	“...and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:20)	to learn to obey
Ministry	“...to prepare God’s people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up.” (Ephesians 4:12)	to serve

The Power of the Holy Spirit      “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you...” (Acts 1:8)      to spread the gospel

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**IV. Can Christians today not attend church?**    \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ It Depends

Do you have difficulty attending church?    \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ It Depends

**V. Why should you attend church?**

- A. Because we need worship, fellowship, teaching, ministry and the Holy Spirit’s power.
- B. Because this is God’s command. “And let us not \_\_\_\_\_ our meeting together, as some people do, but \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ each other, especially now that the day of his \_\_\_\_\_ again is drawing near” (Hebrews 10:25).
- C. To avoid deviating from the truth of the Bible.
- D. Because there are mature Christians in church to help you.

**VI. Three Obligations We Have in Church**

A. Our obligation to be united with Christ – **Baptism (Rom 6:1-14)**

- 1) Baptism is a **fulfillment** of our faith.
  - Jesus said that baptism was to “fulfill all righteousness” (Matthew 3:15).
  - Jesus set an example for us. He was baptized even though He never sinned, but because He knew it was the right thing to do.
- 2) Baptism is a **proclamation** of our faith.
  - The words and actions of baptism communicate to those present that we are positioned in Christ Jesus (Romans 6:3).
- 3) Baptism is a **confirmation** of our faith.
  - We know and feel that we are freed from the old dead person, and live a new life of resurrection power (Romans 6:6-14).
- 4) Baptism is a **witness** of our faith.
  - Baptism is to show that we are dead, buried and resurrected together with the Lord.

*We were therefore \_\_\_\_\_ with him through baptism into \_\_\_\_\_ in order that, just as Christ was \_\_\_\_\_ from the dead through the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Father, we too may live a \_\_\_\_\_ life” (Romans 6:4).*