

Growth Track

Module 2: What Is My Purpose

Student's Notes

Lesson Six - Community

Key Takeaway

You can get involved in church!

Introduction

1. When we accepted Christ's work on the cross for us, we were automatically included into His family - the church community.
2. We are placed in the church to receive and grow, as well as to contribute and bless others.
3. One of the practices of the New Testament church is Holy Communion or the breaking of bread which helps us to remember together what Christ did for us on the cross. This practice is done as a church community.

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. Acts 2:42

I. GOD PLACES US IN COMMUNITY

The early church was a community (Acts 2:42-46).

God designed the church to be the place believers belong to.

1. The Bible describes the church like a body connected together, with Christ as the head (Colossians 1:18).
2. The church is made up of different people who share the same faith and Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:12-13).
3. Each person in the church has been uniquely gifted by the Holy Spirit to play a unique role so the church body would be built up and equipped to do God's work. (Ephesians 4:11-13).

The church helps us to grow (Ephesians 4:15-16).

1. We are taught God's Word in the local church.
2. We are able to praise and worship God corporately.
3. We are able to receive help and input from other believers (Proverbs 11:14).
4. We are able to encourage others and be encouraged.
5. We are able to serve God with other believers (1 Peter 4:10).

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II. OUR ROLE IN THE CHURCH

We are to love the church (Ephesians 5:25) by being willing to lay down our lives like He did for us.

We are to prioritise gathering as a church, i.e. in Connect Groups or worship services (Hebrews 10:25).

We are to serve God and others in the church (Ephesians 2:10).

We are to help others in the church in tangible ways (Galatians 6:2).

We are to support the church financially with our tithes and offerings (Malachi 3:10, Mark 12:41-44).

We are to be good examples to one another and to pre-believers as well (1 Timothy 4:12).

We are to put ourselves under the authority of leaders and support them wholeheartedly (Hebrews 13:7, 17).

We are to pray for our leaders and pastors (2 Thessalonians 3:1-2, Hebrews 13:18).

III. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Jesus initiated the first Holy Communion with His disciples before He went to the cross.

1. The bread signifies the body of our Lord Jesus Christ broken for us and distributed to believers (Luke 22:19).
2. The cup which we drink signifies the new covenant in Jesus' blood which is shed for us (Luke 22:20).
3. Believers are to participate in Holy Communion in remembrance of Christ and to declare that He died for our sins.

According to the example of the early church, Holy Communion or the Lord's Supper is celebrated by believers together regularly (1 Corinthians 11:23-26, Acts 2:46).

We are to prepare ourselves before taking Holy Communion (1 Corinthians 11:27-34).

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Conclusion

1. We are placed in the church community to receive and grow as well as to be a blessing to others.
2. As we take on various roles and responsibilities in the church community, we grow spiritually and help others progress in their spiritual growth as well.
3. As we take Holy Communion together, let's allow God to search our hearts and respond wholeheartedly to Him.