

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.

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

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

The early church was a community of believers that met regularly (Acts 2:42-46).

All believers belong to the "universal church". All believers are also placed in a local church where they connect with other believers, serve and grow together.

1. The Bible describes the church like a body connected together, with Christ as the head (Colossians 1:18).
2. Just as a body has many different parts, the church is made up of different people. However, they all 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).
4. We should aim to foster love, unity and close ties with one another in our church family (Acts 2:46).

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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).
6. We share communion together with other believers (Acts 2:42)
 - a. One of the practices of the New Testament church is participating in Communion or the breaking of bread which helps us to remember together what Christ did for us on the cross.
 - b. This practice is done as a church community (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

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).

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

We are to respond to and pray for our leaders and pastors (Hebrews 13:7, 17-18; 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2).

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.