

The Church is the _____ response of Heaven to the insidious machinations of Hell.

“When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. “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. “And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”” Matthew 16:13-19, NKJV

- The Church is what Jesus is building on the earth to overthrow the plans of Satan.

The Church is a FELLOWSHIP of believers who demonstrate the _____ of God.

“Paul, called *to be* an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes *our* brother, To the **church of God** which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called *to be* saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the end, *that you may be* blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God *is* faithful, by whom you were called into the **fellowship** of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, NKJV

- **FACT:** A top priority in fellowship is HARMONY.
- **IMPLICATION:** We need to GET ALONG WITH EACH OTHER. 1 Peter 3:8, 9
- *You are called to this fellowship in order to inherit your blessing.*

The Church is a FAMILY of believers who are _____ into the family of God.

“For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole **family** in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height-- to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” Ephesians 3:14-19, NKJV

- When you were born, you were born into a family. When “born again”, you are born again into a family – Church.
- When we put faith in Christ, four relationships change: **God becomes our Father. We become His children. Believers become our brothers & sisters. The Church becomes our spiritual family.** Romans 8:15-17
- **FACT:** A top priority in family is RELATIONSHIPS.
- **IMPLICATION:** We need to TREAT EACH OTHER WITH LOVE AND RESPECT.

The Church is a BODY of believers who are called to _____ their gifts and talents for His glory.

“For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also *is* Christ.” 1 Corinthians 12:12

- “I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, *for the sake of His body, which is the church,*” Colossians 1:24, NKJV
- **FACT:** A top priority in the body is UNITY WITH DIVERSITY.
- **IMPLICATION:** We need EACH OTHER.

The Church is His FLOCK of believers who the Father wants to give His _____.

Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” Luke 12:32

- “Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.” Hebrews 13:17, NKJV.
- **FACT:** A top priority in the flock is TOGETHERNESS. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
- **IMPLICATION:** We need to CARE FOR EACH OTHER.
- Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially those who are of the household of faith. Gal 6:10

The Church is the _____ and ground of the truth of Jesus Christ.

“These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; but if I am delayed, *I write* so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.” 1 Timothy 3:14-16, NKJV

- “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, to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” Eph 3:20, 21