

The Church

Christians talk about the Church as the “Body and Bride of Christ” and acknowledge that it was started by Jesus and commissioned to be His unique representative on Earth. However, for many their experience of Church does not live up to their expectations.

We are looking at what Jesus taught about the Church so that we gain a fresh understanding of what He did for us on the Cross. He created a place where sinful men and women, despite their sins, may be accepted by God and enabled to live and rejoice in His presence.

We will see that the Church is the continuation of the ministry of Jesus who received sinners, ate and drank with them and drew them into His community.

May 19 th	Manifesto	John 17:6-23 & Hebrews 8
26th	Moulded	Ephesians 4:3-16
June 2 nd	Mosaic	1 Corinthians 12:12-26
9 th	On Fire	Luke 24:45-49 & Acts 2:1-8
16 th	Non-Members Only	2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2

Fulwood Free Methodist Church

Message Series: The Church

Unpacking the Calling and Purpose of the Church



Week two : Moulded—Everyone has a part to play

Sunday Morning 26th May 2019

Questions for Personal and Home Group Study

These questions are based around the content and theme of today's talk at our morning services and we recommend listening to the podcast and reading the Bible passages.

Key Bible passage: Ephesians 4:1-16

- 1) In the letter to the Ephesians, Paul starts by setting out what Christ has done for us personally and moves on to explain how Christ's redemptive work is also to bring Jews and Gentiles together. He summarises the first two Chapters in 2 :19– 22
 - When Paul says " you too are being built together to become a dwelling place in which God lives by his Spirit" (2:22), what does he mean and how would you explain this to an outsider?
 - Similarly what does it mean that for the "Dwelling place" Christ is " The Cornerstone"(2:20).
 - What would you say to someone who says that it is possible to be Christian and never be involved in "Church" with other Christians ?
- 2) In Ephesians 4:1-7 he uses the word " one " times (NIV)
 - What does this use of "one" tells us?
 - What do we need to do day by day as a local Church to live up to being "one"?
- 3) In this chapter (4) Paul starts by talking about the unity of the Church and then moves on to the different Leadership gifts that operate within the Church. Paul outlines in 4: 11-13 the Leadership gifts that He has given to the Church. There are other lists of gifts (i.e. 1 Corinthians 12) which we will look at next week
 - What does the psalmist (Psalm 68:18),as quoted in Ephesians 4:8 ,tell us about the cost to Christ of these gifts ?
 - What is the purpose of these Gifts (see 4: 12-16) ?
 - How would you define the function of the Gifts listed in 4:11?
 - Can you identify each of these gifts operating in the Body of Christ that is Fulwood FMC?
 - What do you think would happen if some of these gifts were not operating?
 - Given the Emphasis of each ministry gift, how does Paul envisage them working together?
- 4) We know that Gifted leaders in the early Church did sometimes clash with each other . Look at the incident involving Paul and Barnabas (Acts 15:36-40)
 - From what you know of these two mens character and backgrounds why do you think the disagreement occurred?
 - Are such disagreements inevitable?
 - What could you do to avoid a similar disagreement?