

Session 15

**What  
about  
the  
church**



What is the church?

- Popular misconceptions:
  - Church = services
  - Church = buildings

## 1. FRIENDS (John 15:15)

- Friends with Jesus
- Friends with one another (Hebrews 10:25)
- Greek word *koinonia* = fellowship

## 2. FAMILY (1 John 5:1)

- God as our Father (John 1:12)
- Brothers and sisters to each other (1 John 4:19 – 5:1)
- Importance of unity
- Jesus prayed “... that they may be one.” (John 17:11)

### **Becoming a Christian involves:**

- Something God does—He gives you the Holy Spirit
- Something you do—you repent and believe
- Something the church does—baptism

Baptism is the visible mark of being a member of the church.

### **Baptism signifies:**

- Cleansing from sin (1 Corinthians 6:11)
- Dying and rising with Christ (Romans 6:3–5; Colossians 2:12)

### 3. HOME (Ephesians 2:19–22)

- Old Testament—physical temple was God’s home
- New Testament—a building made up of people (Ephesians 2:21–22)
  - Jesus as the cornerstone (v.20)
  - Indwelt by God’s Spirit (v.21) “a holy temple”
  - A place where people are loved, accepted, and welcomed home

### 4. JESUS (1 Corinthians 12:1–27)

- We are the body of Christ through whom the world will see Jesus. (v.27)
- Universal church (Ephesians 3:10,21; 5:23,25)
  - Unity (John 17:20–21)
  - Diversity (Ephesians 4:7–11)
  - Mutual dependence (vv.14–26)

### 5. LOVE (Ephesians 5:25–27, 32)

- Jesus loves the church; Jesus loves you. (v.25)
- The church should be famous for its love.

**“You can do what I cannot do, I can do what you cannot do; together we can do great things.”**

**(MOTHER TERESA)**

