

## The Church – The Fullness of God

### 1. What is the Church?

a. (Acts 15:14; Eph 3:12; Rev 5:9-10)

b. (1 Cor 6:17; Eph 1:23; Eph 5:30)

### 2. God's Eternal Purpose

(Eph 2:7, 21; 3:9-11; 3:21)

John Piper puts it this way, "The magnifying of Christ in the white-hot worship of all nations is the reason the world exists."

### 3. How is the Church Built?

(Matthew 16:18; 1 Cor 12:4-18)

### 4. How Does the Church Grow and Accomplish God's Purpose?

(Eph 4:4, 7-8, 13-16)

5. Proper functioning of each individual part in the body means that, among other things, the following things are visible in the interactions within the local church. Consider all the implications of the "one-anothers."

(John 13:34; Romans 12:10, 16; Gal 6:2; Eph 4:2; 4:32; 5:19; 5:21; 1 Thess 5:11; Heb 3:13; Heb 10:24,25; 1 Peter 4:9; James 5:16)

Consider these one-anothers:

Love, be kindly affectioned, same mind, bear burdens; bear with; be kind to; speak to with psalms and hymns, forgiving, submitting to, peace with; edify; exhort daily; assemble together, stir up love and good works; be hospitable to; confess faults to; pray with and for, etc.

### Personal Application:

1. Examine yourself to see if you're in the faith. (2 Cor 13:5)

(John 13:35; Matt 7:21-23; 1 John)

2. Ask yourself, "Do I believe that I really am part of Christ's body and a display of His glory now and for all eternity?" Ask God to help you enter into this truth.

3. Ask God where He has placed you in the body, and discover your gifts.

(1 Cor 12 1-11; Romans 12:3-8; 1 Peter 4:7-11)

4. Ask God to help you function fully and healthfully using the Spirit's gifts for the growth of the body.