

- Be kind to one another (Ephesians 4:32)
- Forgive one another (Ephesians 4:32)
- Speak to one another (Ephesians 5:19)
- Submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21)
- Bear with one another (Colossians 3:13)
- Teach, admonish each other (Colossians 3:16)
- Encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- Build up one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- Stimulate one another to love & good deeds (Heb 10:24)
- Offer hospitality to one another (1 Peter 4:9)
- Minister gifts to one another (1 Peter 4:10)
- Be humble toward one another (1 Peter 5:5)
- Confess your sins to one another (James 5:16)
- Pray for one another (James 5:16)
- Fellowship with one another (1 John 1:7)

How are you fulfilling these commands? What can you do to be more obedient to them?

List ABC's strengths & weaknesses. How are you contributing to these? What specific ways can you be part of changing the weaknesses?

Are you willing to commit to attending a Growth Group for the next 10 weeks?

How can we pray for you this week?

#### Quotes to Ponder:

*It's time for the bride of Christ once again to reflect the character of her Groom and respond to His leading.*

Charles Swindoll

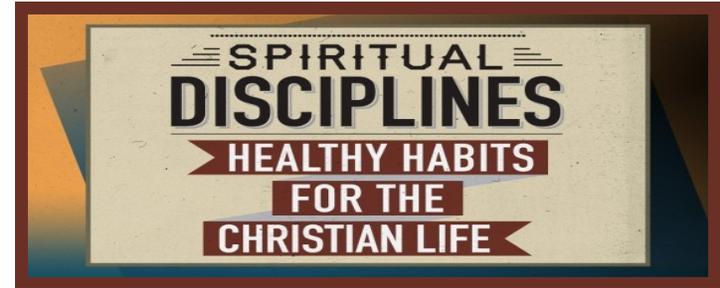
*C.S. Lewis wrote that God "seems to do nothing of Himself which He can possibly delegate to His creatures. He commands us to do slowly & blunderingly what He could do perfectly & in the twinkling of an eye." There is no greater illustration of that principle than the church of Jesus Christ, to which God has delegated the task of embodying God's presence in the world. All of our efforts are examples of*

*God's delegation.*

Philip Yancey

*I do not think it is an exaggeration to say that small groups, Christian family, or fellowship groups, are indispensable for our growth into spiritual maturity.*

John Stott



Message #5: Disciplines for Godliness – The Church

August 31, 2014

Selected Scriptures

Two key passages about the church are:

*1 Peter 2:4-5*

*Ephesians 2:19-22*

How is the church built up?

*Ephesians 4:11-13*

1. Spiritual Gift Ministries (*Ephesians 4:1-12; 1 Corinthians 12:12-20; Romans 12:1-12*)

2. General Ministries of Love to the Body

A. Intercession (*Colossians 1:9-10*)

B. Discipleship (*2 Timothy 1:13; Philippians 3:17; 2 Timothy 2:2*)

C. Accountability

1) Negative (*Hebrews 3:12-13*)

2) Positive (*Hebrews 10:24-25*)

3. What's the Point?

Who is responsible to build the church (*Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 4:11-13*)? Explain.

How could the early church have taken care of the many people added to the church (*Acts 2:41, 47; 4:4; 5:14; 12:24*)?

How could the apostles have adequately cared for the newer Christians that responded to the gospel?

*Acts 2:46-47*—

*Acts 20:20*—

*Acts 5:42*—

*Acts 28:30-31*—

*Acts 12:12*—

*Romans 16:5*—

*Acts 16:40*—

*Colossians 4:15*—

*Acts 17:5-6*—

*Philemon 2*—

Reread *Acts 20:20*. What is the relationship between public teaching of God's Word & house to house teaching of God's Word?

Is one more important than the other? Explain.

It's been said that *spiritual disciplines die in isolation but thrive in community*. What is meant by this? Do you agree? Explain

Why is the idea of *church* so unpopular today?

Why aren't Christians more committed to their local church?

According to *Hebrews 12:22-24*, what spiritual treasures are found in the church?

What does the image of the church as Christ's **body** suggest to you (*Ephesians 1:22-23*)?

His **temple** (*Ephesians 2:19-22*)?

His **bride** (*Ephesians 5:25-33*)?

Why are we so easily tempted to do what *Hebrews 10:25* says not to do?

What spiritual blessings might you miss out on by staying away from the church?

On the most basic level, you do not have to go to church to be a Christian. You do not have to go home to be married either. But in both cases, you'll have a very poor relationship.

How do regular attendance & participation strengthen your relationship with God? Family members? Other believers? Be specific.

Winston Churchill once said that he related to the church rather like a flying buttress: he supported it from the outside. Is church necessary for a believing Christian? Why?

We are given a number of commands that involve *one another*.

- Be at peace with each other (Mark 9:50)
- Love one another (John 13:34)
- Be joined to one another (Romans 12:5)
- Be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10)
- Honor one another (Romans 12:10)
- Rejoice with one another (Romans 12:15)
- Weep with one another (Romans 12:15)
- Live in harmony with one another (Romans 12:16)
- Accept one another (Romans 15:7)
- Counsel one another (Romans 15:14)
- Greet one another (Romans 16:16)
- Agree with each other (1 Corinthians 1:10)
- Wait for one another (1 Corinthians 11:33)
- Care for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25)
- Serve one another (Galatians 5:13)
- Carry one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2)
- Show tolerance for one another (Ephesians 4:2)