



Message: *Continuation of the Church (1-30-22)*

Use the message and the message notes and message help guide your answers and discussion for group.

Helpful Hints:

The primary goal of Small Groups has always been to help Christ Followers grow stronger in their walk by having fellowship with one another. We want each member to hear the word of God, retain it, internalize it, and most importantly apply it. One of the ways we grow as Christ Followers is to make sure we strive each day to align ourselves with the word of God. Here are some tips to help us all make sure we are continuing to strive to align ourselves with the word of God, and His instructions for His followers.

(Exodus 24:7, John 14:23, Deuteronomy 5:33)

- Before you meet watch the message again on our YouTube page (Now Word Covenant Church)
 - It is important to watch it again because there are things you miss the first time that you can get when you watch again.
- Use scripture to back up your answers during discussion. Try not to give your opinion as it pertains to the word of God. If everyone in the group gives a different answer, then it is probably opinion and not Bible.
- Try not to start your answer with "I think...". Instead ask "What does God's word say about this?" Always refer to the word of God, which is the answer to every question.
- If no one knows the answer, it is okay to say, "I don't know". Do some studying before the next meeting and be ready to share your answers.

Pre-Discussion Questions:

1. What did the Holy Spirit reveal to you in this week's message?

2. What does the "church" mean to you?

“Over the years the church has been reinterpreted and repackaged to suit the times and culture it lives in. Historically the church moved from the middle eastern into the western world, and became more Gentile than Jewish in its ethnicity, thoughts, and doctrine.

Jesus features became more Caucasian than middle eastern.

There are five mainline churches: 1) Catholicism, 2) Eastern Orthodox, 3) Anglican, 4) Episcopal and 5) Protestant (Lutheran, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, non-denominational, etc.).

These streams of churches and their order of authority are human constructs of the continuation of the church based on Scriptures, church Fathers, Bishops, 21 church councils, etc.

We currently have over 43,000 denominations or versions of Christianity. “

Discussion Questions:

1. The formation of the early church was developed using three principles. What were these principles? Does the church still use these principles today?

2. According to scripture Christ Followers are supposed to do three things in their daily walk:

(Acts 2:43)

- Obey Scriptures
- Are accountable to community
- Align in Prayer with God

Discuss what each of the above points look like in your daily life. Do you struggle with any of the above points?

3. Read Acts 2:44-47, describe the type of fellowship in the verses. What was a result of the fellowship? What were the key points in these verses that resulted in Christ adding to the church?

4. *“Christian fellowship is the partnership between Christ followers which form a community that mutually benefits all those who are involved in the church.”*

Are you intentional about fellowshiping with not only believers that you do know in your church family, but one's you do not know? If not, why? What could be the benefit of getting to know people you do not know in your church family?

5. Explain the following PK quote: *“Following Christ is never an individualistic quest to pursue God outside of being in fellowship with His church. It is always as much about us dealing with each other as it is dealing with God.”*

6. What are some spiritual growth benefits that come with fellowshiping with the saints?

7. Unity is so important in the body of Christ and a crucial part of our fellowship. What is Jesus’ definition of unity? (John 17:23)
“This unity Jesus prayed for is to be experienced in fellowship with His church, with all the obligations, human faults, and tensions that comes along with being in fellowship with other Christ followers.”

8. What is a way you pursue a spirit of unity within yourself?

9. Why is unity something Jesus had to pray to the Father for?

10. Why is unity hard to achieve in the church? What would be the result if unity was accomplished in the church?

11. What will you apply immediately from this weeks message?