

“So, What Do YOU Believe about...the Church?”

with Pastor Max Frazier

We believe the true Church is made up of those who have experienced the forgiveness of sins and received the gift of God's eternal life. They are empowered by the Holy Spirit to testify of Jesus Christ and to make disciples. (Article VII)

We believe that God works today through the local church, carrying out the Great Commission and the Great Commandment in communities around the world. It is through the local church that God's compassion is shown to those in need. Through the celebration of baptism and the Lord's Supper, we declare a relationship with Jesus Christ, remembering Him until He comes. Membership in the local church is through a profession of faith in Christ Jesus. (Article VIII)

INTRODUCTION

There are few places in the world today where a person can go without experiencing the influence of the Church.

When one hears the word “church,” the immediate thought is to relate that term to a particular building located at a particular location in a particular community.

THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

The relationship between Christ and the Church is like that of a husband and a wife. (Ephesians 5:22-33)

Christ is the Head of the Church; He is the authority within the Church.

Christ loves His Church enough that He gave Himself up for her.

The Church is to love and show reverence and respect to Christ.

The relationship between Christ and the Church is described as that of the head and the body. (1 Corinthians 12:12-31)

Christ is the Head of the body; there is no life within the Church when it separates itself from Jesus Christ. (Revelation 3:15-18)

The body is made up of different talents and abilities. (1 Corinthians 12:15-18, 21)

The Church is diverse

THE CHURCH IS MADE UP OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN REGENERATED

The requirement for membership is not complex, but it is based upon truth.

There must be a recognition of the need for a personal salvation.

A person must repent of his or her sins.

A person must receive by faith personally the work of Christ upon the cross.

THE LOCAL CHURCH

“That this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth” –Abraham Lincoln

“Government of the people, by the people, for the people” describes the government of the local church.

FORMS OF CHURCH GOVERNMENT

The Episcopalian form of government – one man is the chief administrator.

The Presbyterian form of government – a few people, called elders, are vested with the authority of the local church.

The Congregational form of government – the authority of the local church is vested within the entire body of believers.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Roots of the Lord's Supper go back to the Passover – a lamb was killed. (*Exodus 12:13-14*)

Jesus and the Passover – Jesus was the Lamb who was killed. (*Matthew 26:26-29*)

The importance of the Lord's Supper. (*1 Corinthians 11:23-28*)

How does the Lord's Supper impact our lives?

Allows us the opportunity to remember Calvary and the great sacrifice of Jesus for us.

Provides an occasion for us to do some soul-searching.

Time to look forward in joyful anticipation to the celebration around another table in glory in the very presence of Jesus Christ.

Who should participate in the Lord's Supper?

For believers only, but for all believers.

BAPTISM

Great Commission – Matthew 28:19-20

First command: to go – involves missions.

Second command: to make disciples.

1. Evangelism

2. Baptizing

3. Teaching

Baptism defined: an outward symbol of an inward work of God's grace.

What the Statement does not say:

No declarative statement as to the mode or manner of baptism: immersion, pouring, or sprinkling.

No clearly stated time for baptism.

No requirement that baptism be observed before a person could become a member.

A CHALLENGE

Are you a part of the family of God? Are you one of His children?

What if this were your final day here on earth. What would you say to a holy God when asked, "Why should I let you into my heaven?"

Any excuse you give on that day will be just that – an excuse.

Don't delay any longer in becoming part of His family.

NOTES:

