

## The Church

Christians talk about the Church as the “Body and Bride of Christ” and acknowledge that it was started by Jesus and commissioned to be His unique representative on Earth. However, for many their experience of Church does not live up to their expectations.

We are looking at what Jesus taught about the Church so that we gain a fresh understanding of what He did for us on the Cross. He created a place where sinful men and women, despite their sins, may be accepted by God and enabled to live and rejoice in His presence.

We will see that the Church is the continuation of the ministry of Jesus who received sinners, ate and drank with them and drew them into His community.

May 19 <sup>th</sup>	Manifesto	John 17:6-23 & Hebrews 8
26 <sup>th</sup>	Moulded	Ephesians 4:3-16
<b>June 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Mosaic</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 12:12-26</b>
9 <sup>th</sup>	On Fire	Luke 24:45-49 & Acts 2:1-8
16 <sup>th</sup>	Non-Members Only	2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2

## Fulwood Free Methodist Church

### Message Series: The Church

#### Unpacking the Calling and Purpose of the Church



**Week three : Mosaic – Everyone has a Part to Play**

**Sunday Morning 2nd June 2019**

## Questions for Personal and Home Group Study

These questions are based around the content and theme of today's talk at our morning services and we recommend listening to the podcast and reading the Bible passages.

### Key Bible passage: 1 Corinthians 12

- 1) Last week we looked at the 5 APEST (Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Shepherd/Pastor & Teacher) gifts as listed in Ephesians 4. In the New Testament there are around 20 different gifts listed as being given to individual believers and the Church.
    - List the 8 listed in this passage as gifts from the Holy Spirit to the Church.
    - How would you describe the purpose and function of each of these gifts to someone who is new to Christianity and the Church?
    - What other gifts are listed elsewhere in the New Testament (see Romans 12:6-8)?
  - 2) Someone has said "Spiritual gifts are not like trophies or barges given for achievement to accumulate and admire rather they are tools given by God and should be used for his Glory."
    - Consider 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 and whether or not you agree with this quote.
    - What can we also learn from Peter's teaching regarding the outworking of gifts in the Christian's life (see 2 Peter 1:3-4)?
  - 3) One of the great things in the New Testament is that people with very different socio-economic backgrounds and diverse personalities and gifting can fit together into a working unit that is called "Church" and is designed to effectively represent Christ on earth.
    - What is fundamental to the unity of believers (see 1 Corinthians 12:13 and also Galatians 3:26-28)?
    - Paul often had to stress the fundamental unity of all believers because some sectors, such as the circumcised Jews, saw themselves as superior (see for example Romans 3:22-25). In what ways is this a relevant message for the Church today?
  - 4) Paul uses the human body (see 1 Corinthians 12:13-27) to illustrate how the Church as the Body of Christ operates.
    - From your knowledge of the human body can you expand on what is being said about the relative importance of individual parts?
    - What might make some members feel envious of other body parts and have you ever felt this way?
    - How can we make every part feel special and how could these principles apply in your small group or FFMC?
    - How would you illustrate the truth of 1 Corinthians 12:26 from your own life?
    - Why is the individual relationship with the head so important (see Ephesians 4:15-16)?
- And finally** – why is it so important that that we follow the way of love alongside desiring the gifts of the Spirit (see 1 Corinthians 13)?