

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 th	Manifesto	John 17:6-23 & Hebrews 8
26 th	Moulded	Ephesians 4:3-16
June 2 nd	Mosaic	1 Corinthians 12:12-26
9 th	On Fire	Luke 24:45-49 & Acts 2:1-8
16 th	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 four: On Fire – The Hope of the World

Pentecost Sunday – 9th 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 passages:

Luke 24:45-49, John 15:26-16:15, Acts 2:1-8

- 1) The Holy Spirit is active throughout the Bible and not just in the New Testament after Pentecost.
 - What do we know of His ministry in the Old Testament (for example see Genesis 1:2, Exodus 31:1-5, 2 Kings 2:9, Judges 3:10, Ezekiel 3:12, 1 Samuel 16:13-14, Zechariah 7:12)?
 - Joel and Jeremiah are two of the prophets who prophesied about the coming of a new age of the Spirit (see Joel 2:28, Jeremiah 31:31-33). If you read this at the time it was written, what would have been your expectation?

- 2) Read the key passage from John 16 and particularly verses 8-11.
 - How would you explain in plain English the three goals of the Holy Spirit's work?
 - What other roles does the Spirit play (for example see John 14:16-17, 14:26-27, 16:1-13)?
 - If you had been a disciple what would have been your reaction to verses 15 and 16 of John 16 and would you have listened to the second half of it?

- 3) In John 15:26 the Holy Spirit is spoken of as the "Advocate", which in Greek was the word "Paraklete". In 1 John 2:1 John uses the word Paraklete again when he is speaking of Jesus.
 - Why is the word Paraklete /Advocate relevant to both Jesus and the Holy Spirit?
 - What is similar and what is different to the work of Jesus today and the work of the Holy Spirit today?

- 4) Read Acts 2:1-8.
 - Why do we not make as big a celebration of the day of Pentecost as Christmas and Easter?
 - What was the impact of the coming of the Spirit on the Believers and then those in the vicinity of the upper room?

In Conclusion

There is an ancient prayer of the Church, "Come, Holy Spirit." As you finish this study take some time to wait on Him and pray that prayer.