

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	Matthew 28: 16-20 & 2 Corinthians 5: 11- 6: 2

Fulwood Free Methodist Church

Message Series: The Church

Unpacking the Calling and Purpose of the Church



Week five: Non-Members Only

Sunday Morning 16th 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:

2 Corinthians 5: 11 – 6: 2

- 1) God is a missionary. The Latin word for sending is "missio" from which we get our word missionary. God sent, or missioned, His Son. Likewise, Jesus sent his disciples (see Matthew 28: 16-20).
 - Looking back at last week (Pentecost) how did Jesus empower his disciples?
 - Are there any Christians who are not called to be a missionary for Christ?
- 2) The following quote is attributed to a former Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple (1881-1944): "The Church is the only society on earth which exists for the benefit of it's non-members."
 - What do we learn from the 2 Corinthians passage about the scope of Jesus' redemptive work?
 - Is it right that the Church should prioritise the needs of those in the process of coming to faith in Christ over it's established members who may have lots of personal needs/issues?
- 3) In the great commission we are called to make disciples (see Matthew 28: 16-20).
 - How is this different from making converts and what are we to do with these new disciples?
 - Is being involved with church mandatory for new disciples?
 - If it is, which church?
- 4) Although Jesus Christ is available as Saviour to all, not everyone will accept him.
 - What is Paul's motivation and strategy for seeking to "persuade" others (see 2 Corinthians 5: 11-15)?
 - What can we learn from Paul that might help us in seeking to win others for Christ?
- 5) Through this series we have seen that it was God's plan and purpose from the beginning of the Bible to initiate a rescue plan. This involved His Son paying the ultimate price, so that His Son could have a spotless Bride, the Church. His Church would be his representation on earth and eventually enter into an eternal union with Him.
What practical steps can we take to:
 - Live a Holy Spirit filled life that allows us to play our part in the life of the Body of Christ (i.e. The Church)?
 - Make our local expression of Church (i.e. FPMC) welcoming to current non-members?
 - Make disciples that make disciples?