

Life in the Father's House

A Member's Guide to the Local Church

Lesson #1 "Realizing the Importance of the Local Church"

Read Foreword, Introduction and Chapter One and answer the following questions from pages 9-35.

1 Timothy 3:15 ... "I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."

- 1) In most cases, what organization shifted believers' focus away from the local church?

- 2) Is it possible to have a healthy spiritual life and close relationship with God without the church?

- 3) "The _____ is the primary _____ through which _____ accomplishes His _____ in the world."

- 4) What is the meaning of "household" in **1 Timothy 3:15**?

- 5) In **1 Timothy 3:15** what does "*the church of the living God*" communicate?

- 6) How does God the Father reveal His love for the church? Support with Scripture.

- 7) How does God the Son reveal His love for the church? Support with Scripture.

- 8) How does God the Holy Spirit reveal His love for the church? Support with Scripture.

9) What does it mean that the church is “*the pillar of the truth*”?

10) How does our own relationship with God and His Word come into mortal danger?

11) List four ways the church functions as a pillar of the truth?

12) What does it mean that the church is “*the ground of the truth*”?

13) Why would it not be the “end of the world” if we lived in an evil country?

14) What does **1 John 2:19** teach us about those who separate themselves from the church?

15) “The _____ of Christ’s _____ love and _____ was to bring people _____ His church!”

16) “The _____ of Jesus Christ _____ profess _____ to Him and _____ His church.”

8) “Church _____ is not _____ a commitment on the member’s _____ to the church, but it is a commitment of the _____ part to the _____.”

9) Why do we naturally think “dealing with peoples sins” is not helpful?

10) Look at the list of Scripture on page 50 and list all the benefits of loving rebuke?

11) What are we saying when we are unwilling to join a local church?

12) How do we deny ourselves the blessing of the local church?

Quote: “we need to honor Christ by being His bride in every sense—outwardly as well as inwardly, visible as well as invisibly, and officially in the local church as well as spiritually in the universal body.”

- 8) List the five ways in which a man-centered church works in contrast to a God-centered church.
- 9) How can we have genuine, Biblical, loving concern for the needs of others?
- 10) How did the early church develop close relationships?
- 11) What reason motivated the early church to give sacrificially to one another?
- 12) What is to be our concern with those outside of the body of Christ?
- 13) Why is church discipline important in the life of the church?
- 14) "... no matter how _____ a group of people _____ themselves a _____, it means _____ if they are not _____ as a church, _____ to God's instructions."

Life in the Father's House

A Member's Guide to the Local Church

Lesson #4 "Relating to Church Leadership"

Read Chapter Four and answer the following questions from pages 73-94.

Hebrews 13:17 "Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you."

- 1) What are the two extreme responses to church leadership?

- 2) What is a leader to avoid in the use of their authority?

- 3) What is the meaning of the word "obey" in **Hebrews 13:17**?

- 4) What are the three questions we should ask ourselves regarding obedience to our church leaders?

- 5) Why do we often resist obeying our church leaders?

- 6) "Not only are we _____ by Scripture to _____ the dogmatic _____ of our leaders, we are _____ commanded to _____ very _____ the _____ they have to offer."

- 7) What does it mean that we are to submit in the "active verb" to our church leaders?

- 8) List the three marks that characterize Biblical submission to leadership?

- 9) What should be the basis of our submission to our church leaders?

- 10) “We can _____ with our leaders on various _____ without creating _____, as long as we _____ our opinions with a _____ humility and graciousness.”

- 11) When we resist the authority of our leaders on unbiblical grounds, whose authority are we really resisting?

- 12) Why is it important to recognize the authority in the local church?

- 13) What is the third command in **Hebrews 13:17**?

- 14) List nine ways a Christian can bring joy to their pastor?

- 15) List some ways (not from the book) that we grieve our godly leaders?

- 16) Based on **Hebrews 13:17**, why should we not grieve our leaders?

- 7) “Traditional views that are _____ in _____ doctrines have in fact been _____ by God throughout history to _____ respect for women, not _____ them.”
- 8) Why has God clearly placed restrictions on the ministries of women in the church?
- 9) What are the four key marks God has designed for women in the local church?
- 10) In **1 Corinthians 11:3-10; 14:34-38** and **1 Timothy 2:11-14**, list the two things that are clear and not open for discussion in regards to women’s role in the church?
- 11) What does leadership bring that the average person do not expect?
- 12) Women are instruments in God’s plan for the teaching of whom within the local church?
- 13) “Women can make a tremendous _____ to the _____ and the world from the _____ up instead of from the _____ down.”
- 14) Why can women never legitimately say, “I don’t have anything to do for Christ”?
- 15) What does Satan tempt Christian women to do in the local church?

Quote: “Any open-minded person will also realize that the tasks God has assigned to women are not insignificant, but very important. In fact, they are every bit as important as the tasks that God has assigned to the men. They are different in some respects from the tasks of men, but just because they are different doesn’t mean that they are unimportant.”

Life in the Father's House

A Member's Guide to the Local Church

Lesson #6 "Participation in Worship Services"

Read Chapter Six and answer the following questions from pages 119-143.

John 4:23-24 "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. **24** "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

- 1) What can bring the judgment of God upon a church?
- 2) What is the meaning and essence of the word "worship"?
- 3) What is to be the focus of true worship?
- 4) How are we to inwardly be involved in true worship?
- 5) When does our worship please God?
- 6) "Our _____ and _____ during the _____ will often determine whether we will be _____ to God on _____."
- 7) What are the marks of a true worshipper found in **Psalms 15:2-5**?
- 8) Does our relationship with others affect our worship? If so, how?

- 9) How are we to prepare for worship on the Lord's Day?
- 10) How can listening to the Word of God become displeasing to God?
- 11) Why does Jay Adams believe that listeners often share the blame for the lack of fruit from listening to sermons?
- 12) What two things do you struggle with most often from the list on pages 129-131?
- 13) What is our personal responsibility during public prayer?
- 14) In **Colossians 3:16**, what is the two-fold purpose of public singing?
- 15) What is the responsibility of every believer regarding the hymns we sing?
- 16) What did Spurgeon mean that we are to "look through" the elements at the Lord Supper?
- 17) "_____ is very much an act of _____, and God had _____ it to be an _____ of the corporate _____ of the body."
- 18) What are the seven principles for giving found in the NT?
- 19) What is the goal for serving one another in the services?

- 7) What happens when a believer does not faithfully minister their gift?
- 8) In **Ephesians 4:11-12**, what's the duty of leaders and members?
- 9) "God has _____ pastors and other leaders the specialized _____ of preparing the _____ so that _____ of those ministries will be _____ out by the _____ themselves."
- 10) What does the doctrine of the "priesthood of the believer" have to do with church life?
- 11) In **Ephesians 4:13-16** what are the fruits of using our spiritual gift in church body life?
- 12) How can we discern our spiritual gift?
- 13) How can one minister their spiritual gift wrongly?

Life in the Father's House

A Member's Guide to the Local Church

Lesson #8 "Confronting One Another"

Read Chapter Eight and answer the following questions from pages 165-192.

Galatians 6:1-2 "Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

- 1) What is Jesus primary concern for His church body?

- 2) What happens when we ignore relationship problems?

- 3) What is the solution to sin and conflict in the church as recorded in **Matthew 18**?

- 4) Confrontation is actually _____ of the _____ ways we can _____ our _____ for others?

- 5) What should be second nature for each member in the church?

- 6) What does each member in the church have responsibility to do regarding any problems?

- 7) What sins are we to confront in another person?

- 8) What does growing in Biblical love and wisdom help us to do?

- 9) What are the ten “how to” ways we should confront another person?

- 10) What is the first thing we are to do before we confront anyone?

- 11) Why is it important to first confront a person privately?

- 12) What did Paul want the church in Corinth to understand as to why he wrote his letter to them?

- 13) What is the goal of Biblical confrontation, always?

- 14) According to Jesus what is an unacceptable response to a rebuke?

- 15) What is the author’s definition of a spiritual person?

- 16) What does “if they refuse to listen” in **Matthew 18:17** mean?

Life in the Father's House

A Member's Guide to the Local Church

Lesson #9 "Preserving the Unity in the Body"

Read Chapter Nine and answer the following questions from pages 192-212.

Romans 12:18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

- 1) How serious was the problem between Euodia and Syntyche?

- 2) Why do many relationships never become reconciled or restored?

- 3) What is the "principle of mutual responsibility?"

- 4) List the three ways we sinfully respond to a wrong done to us?

- 5) Retaliation is a sin against whom?

- 6) Why do we choose to do nothing in response to a broken relationship?

- 7) What is the goal of all broken relationships?

- 8) Where does resolving conflict all begins?

9) What is the key to all godly conduct?

10) What attitude do we need that would help us restore and unite our relationships?

11) How can we guard our minds against judging and thinking the worse in others?

12) How can we overcome sin and walk in holiness of life?

13) Why are we tempted not to seek help and advice from others?

14) What happens when we fail to seek advice, wisdom and counsel from others?

15) In the New Testament who is commanded to admonish and restore others in the church body?

16) How can we become better examples and teachers to others?

- 8) "... it is hard to be _____ critical of _____ for whom we are _____ giving _____."
- 9) What should be the primary focus of our prayer for the body?
- 10) Why should we focus more on the common faith we share?
- 11) What is our growing love for one another not ever to ignore?
- 12) How are we to pray for one another in reference to the Word of God?
- 13) What are the four motives needed to be a God pleasing church member?
- 14) "The Lord cares even _____ about _____ is happening in our _____ than what we are _____ with our bodies or _____ with our lips."

Quote: Charles Spurgeon, "As we breathe without ceasing, so must we pray without ceasing. As there is no attainment in life, of health, or of strength, or of muscular vigor which can place a man beyond the necessity of breathing, so no condition of spiritual growth or advance in grace will allow a man to dispense with prayer..."