

## **Review: Church in Matthew**

**Church** – The assembly of Jesus' disciples /God's people

### **Matthew 16 & 18**

1. Church is made of people who profess Jesus as Saviour and Lord (16:16-18)
2. Church given authority to add and remove people to & from its itself (16:19, 18:17-18)
3. Authority rightly used when 2-3 disciples gather to represent Jesus as a church (18:19-20)

### **Jesus authorizes His church to:**

- Proclaim & protect the gospel
- Recognize & affirm those who credibly profess Him
- Unite them as part of itself
- Oversee & nurture their discipleship
- Exclude any non-credible professors

*\*Matt 16:16-20, 18:15-20, 28:18-20*

### **Implications and Applications**

- Individual disciples need a church to affirm and oversee their discipleship (Acts 2:37-38)
- Church has responsibility to steward authority entrusted to them (1 Cor.5:1-13)

## **Church in New Testament Letters**

### **The Purpose of the Church**

*His purpose was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to the eternal purpose that He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord (Ephesians 3:10-1)*

### **Church Purpose Fulfilled in “One Another” Commands**

- Discipleship & Teaching (1 Th. 5:11-14, Col. 3:16)
- Servant Leadership (Gal. 5:13, 1 Pt. 4:1)
- Submission (Eph. 5:21, Heb. 13:17, 1 Th. 5:12)
- Love & Hospitality (Rom. 12:10, 1 Pt. 1:22, 4:8-9)

### **Early Churches had Defined “One Anothers”**

- Letters written to specific gatherings of believers called churches (1 Th. 1:1)
- Gatherings of churches considered separated from believers in general (1 Cor 1:2)
- New Testament also made distinctions between different churches (1 Cor 16:19)
- Letters meant to be locally practiced but universally applied (Col 4:16)

**Local church** - a group of Christians who regularly gather in Christ's name to carry out the responsibilities and commands that Christ has given to His church

**Universal church** - Disciples of Jesus in all places, at all times

*Note: Word church referring to the universal church is only used 13 times in the New Testament (9 uses in Ephesians). The focus of the word "church" refers to specific defined groups of disciples.*

**Church membership** - a formal relationship between a church and a Christian characterized by the church's affirmation and oversight of a Christian's discipleship and the Christian's submission to living out his or her discipleship in the care of the church

**Church member** - a person who has been officially and publicly recognized as a Christian by a church as well as someone who shares in responsibility of affirming and overseeing other Christians in their church.

### **Basis for Church Membership: God's Covenant Love**

- God is a God who official and formally expresses his love through establishing covenant relationship
- Nature of love requires formal identification with another person at different levels depending on how love is expressed in that relationship
- **Covenant** - a relationship where there is formal identification with another and an agreement on how to relate to each other
- Jesus' covenant with his disciples and command to love each other as He does, means we are to enter into a similar covenant like relationship (Matt 26:26-29, John 13:34)

### **Personal Heart Attitude of Membership**

*Toward whole church*

I am willing to give myself to work for the growth and wellbeing of the church's gospel ministry commissioned by Jesus (Worship, Discipleship, Evangelism & Mercy) (Matt 28:18-20)

*Toward fellow members*

I am willing to submit myself to disciple and be disciplined, to serve and to be served, to love and to be loved in the way that Jesus commands his followers to do with the members of this church (Rom. 12:10, 1 Th. 5:11-14, Gal. 5:13)

*Toward leaders*

I am willing to honour, affirm and submit to EEC's leaders (pastor & council) as they serve in the authority Jesus gives to His church (Heb. 13:17)

**EEC Church Covenant (Draft)**

As those who have repented and believed in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, experienced the forgiveness of our sins and have publicly professed our faith through baptism in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. With God's grace and help we commit to live out the kingdom rule of Jesus together at Emmanuel English Church:

- We will not forsake gathering in Jesus' name to worship Him together (Heb 10:25)
- We will live together as God's family in care and service toward each other (Rm.12:10, Gl. 3:13)
- We will encourage, guard and disciple each other in faith (1 Th.5:11-14)
- We will correct, and speak the truth to each other in love (Col 3:16)
- We will rejoice at each other's happiness, seek to bear each other's burdens & sorrows (Rm. 12:15, Gl. 6:2)
- We will strive to main the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace; (Eph 4:1)
- Forgiving each other as God forgave us (Col 3:13)
- Praying for each other to grow in Christlikeness and persevere in faith (Eph 6:8)

We will work together to continue God honoring ministries in the church (Mt 28:19-20)

- To uphold the truth of the gospel and biblical teaching in worship (1 Tm. 3:15)
- To practice communion and baptism with integrity (1 Cor. 11:27-29)
- To cheerfully and faithfully support the ministry financially so that the gospel would be spread to all nations (2 Cor. 8:7, 9:7)

We will live lives that show the forgiveness, hope and love found in the gospel (1 Pt. 3:15)

- To live righteously, justly and humbly in dependence on the Holy Spirit (Micah 6:8)
- To share the good news of Jesus in both word and deed (Mt. 5:14)

We submit to the authority of Jesus in one another, in the church leaders and by God's grace strive to grow in obedience and faith each day (Eph. 5:21, Heb. 13:17, Ph. 2:13-14)

When we move from this place, as soon as possible, we will unite with some other church of like faith and practice where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word

(Eph. 5:21, Heb. 13:17, 1 Cor. 12:21)

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen. (2 Cor 13:14)