

A Biblically Informed View of the Church

In order for the church to be the kind of transforming presence (“salt and light”) to the power centers of culture, believers must understand their corporate identity in Christ. Why did God create us to be a “congregation?” What was God’s intent in forming us as a commUNITY? In the following exercise, examine the passages to determine 1) The picture, activity or example seen and 2) The principle from this example that needs to be present in our lives as a spiritual community of God’s people.

Biblical Reference	Picture, Activity or Example Seen	Principle or Vision of Ministry that Needs to be Seen in Our Congregation
1 Corinthians 12:12-31	The Church is a body	Everyone has a role (ministry) to do. Everyone needs each other.
Revelation 19:7; Ephesians 5:25-33	The Church is a Bride	Make yourself ready
1 Peter 2:4-10	The Church is Living Stones that form a house	Sacrifice
Acts 4:23-37	The Church is filled with the Holy Spirit	The importance of being with Jesus
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	The Church is a Model	Know your identity
Acts 11:19-30	The Church is a Witness	Worship
Acts 2:42-47	The Church is a Community	Devotion
1 Corinthians 1:1-29	The Church is Living Saints	Preaching the Cross
1 Corinthians 3:1-9	The Church is a Growing Field	Work
Ephesians 4:1-6	We have received a high calling from God	Make every effort—work at unity and maturity
Matthew 16:13-20	The Church has received a promise: Jesus will build His Church	Remembering the Promise
1 Timothy 3:14-15 with Chapter 2	The Church is a Household	Role of Men and Women

