

NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP

Foundational Concepts

Core Group Training

(Part 1)

I. WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

1. A **New Creation... a Living Organism...** created by **Jesus Christ** (Eph. 1:22-23; Colossians 1:13-18; 2 Cor. 5:17)

Indestructible, Unconquerable, Overcoming, Growing, Multiplying ... (Matt. 16:18; Acts 12:24; Eph. 2:11-22; Rom. 8:31-39; 1 John 4:4; 5:4-5)

Although she is an **organism...** this **does not imply** that she is not organized, has no order, does not plan, etc... In a similar way... each living cell is organized... organized to live and carry on life... not organized... just to be organized...

2. She is → **All** Genuine, Born-Again, Disciples of Jesus Christ, since the **Day of Pentecost** (see Acts 2; Colossians 1:25-29; Eph. 1:13-14; 3:6 [read verses 1-10 for context])

She is the world-wide **Body of Christ**, since that Day... all around the world... until Christ comes back. (1 Cor. 12:12-13)

3. She is **visibly** expressed as the “**local church**”

What makes up a local church? [→ Disciples of Jesus Christ... real, genuine, born-again followers of Jesus Christ]
- “Equipping” Leadership/Eldership (Eph. 4:11-16; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 5:17-18; 1 Thess. 5:12-13)
- Those not in leadership/eldership (i.e. “the saints” → see Eph. 4:11-12)
- Loyalty to Christ, One Another, to the leadership... (Acts 20:28-31; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Hebrews 13:7,17)

She is more like a “family” than anything else (i.e. “God’s Household” – 1 Timothy 3:14-15; Eph. 2:11-22).

4. What SHE is **NOT...**:

Some sort of human organization or invention of human thinking or concepts...

Not a business, corporation, non-profit corporation/association...

Not an IRS entity (not a **501(c)3** religious, charitable, non-profit organization... etc...)

II. HOW IS SHE SUPPOSED TO CONDUCT HERSELF IN THIS WORLD UNTIL CHRIST COMES BACK?

Missionally, Relevantly, Radically, Passionately, Purposefully, Evangelistically, Lovingly, Prayerfully, & Biblically...

... Earnestly Contend for the Faith Once for all Delivered unto the saints... (Jude 3)

... Become Relevant with the Gospel, using all sorts of methods and means for the sake of the Gospel, creatively... relationally... without compromising the truth of God’s Word. (1 Cor. 9:19-23)

... Love God, Love One Another (within the Body of Christ), and Love the Lost to Christ...

(Deut. 6:4-5; Matt. 22:37-40; Mark 12:29-31; Romans 12; 1 John 4:7-21)

A. Reach Seekers (make, grow, and multiply reproducing disciples for Jesus Christ (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; **12:24**))

B. Build Believers (edify, equip, train, nurture, love, care for one another, all the “One Anothers” (Eph. 4:11-16; Colossians 1:28))

C. Release Leaders (train, equip, release leaders of all types... including those to plant new churches, etc...)

D. She is to be **organized** in a **SIMPLE FASHION** and she is to **do** the “**work of the ministry**” in a **SIMPLE FASHION** ...

1. Leadership → Elders – oversee the local church family... & equip the saints... (Eph. 4:11-16)

2. The Saints → Do the work of the ministry... (Eph. 4:11-16)

3. Meeting **Publically** and from **House to House** (Acts 2:42-47; 5:42; 20:20)

4. Every believer is to be a part of **ONLY ONE** local church family, simply (Luke 9:62; Acts 20:28-31; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Heb. 10:23-25; 13:7,17; 1 Thess. 5:12-13)