

## **Liberty Church Values: 5. This is His church**

At Liberty church we believe that each believer is a member of the body of Christ, Jesus being the head of that body. Jesus paid the price for His church, died for His church and is coming back for His church. It is our belief that though we all have the privilege to be ministers within the body of Christ, it is still Jesus who is the Head and He is the one who is in charge of building His church. Under His guidance and the empowerment of His Spirit we endeavour to see His church glorified and beautified according to the image of Him who created it.

### **Study sections:**

- 1/. The biblical meaning of the church.**
- 2/. The purpose of the church.**
- 3/. Jesus' relationship to the Church.**
- 4/. Our relationship to the Church.**

### **1/. The biblical meaning of the church.**

- The Church.

Traditionally, the church has always been referred to as a building or structure where people gather together to worship God. However, the new testament meaning for church is entirely different.

The church is not a building made with hands,

Church : Mentioned 117 times in new testament.

The Greek word for church is Ekklesia. Means a calling out. the called out ones.

The meaning of church in the new testament refers to a group of people who have been called out of this world and into the family of God.

- The Temple:

That gathering of people know as the church are also know individually and corporately as the temple of God.

**1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?**

Jesus Himself referred to His own body as a temple.



John 2: 19 Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

- The house of God:

1 Timothy 3:15 but if I am delayed, 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.

- A spiritual house:

1 Peter 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

## 2/. The purpose of the church.

- To bring Glory and Honour to God the Father.

Ephesians 3: 21 to Him be glory **IN the church** by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Glory: Honour, praise, dignity, worship.

**In and by** : The same greek word is used for both English words. The implication of the word is "By, or through the instrumentality of".

The overall picture is this. Jesus paid for and created the church through his death and resurrection. He then indwells the church and empowers it to reflect the image of the one who created it, namely Jesus. Our heavenly Father has put all things into Jesus' hands and made all things subject to Jesus. Through Jesus and His resurrected, empowered body, the church, our heavenly Father is made known to the whole of creation and receives all the Glory and the honour through Jesus.

- To reveal the Greatness and superiority of Gods Wisdom to the demonic realm.

This wisdom had been hidden from every created being, including satan and all demonic spirits.

Ephesians 3:9-10. and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; 10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,

- To destroy the works of the devil.



1 John 3:8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

John 14:12 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

Mark 16:15-19 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." 19 So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. **Literally : "Over to you guys"**

### 3/. Jesus' relationship to the Church.

- He is above it as its supreme authority and head.

Ephesians 1:22-23, And He ( God the Father ) put all things under His feet ( Jesus ), and gave Him ( Jesus ) to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

- He is below it as its eternal foundation and support.

1 Corinthians 3:11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 11:10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

- He is within it as its unending source of life, provision and power.

Ephesians 1:23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 4:15-16 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16 **from** whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

From: Indicates the Origin. That is; The point from where all action and motion proceeds. Colossians 2:9 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.



- He loves it.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

Agape. Unconditional. Demonstrated by giving His life for it.

- He payed for it with His life.

1Peter 1:18-19 For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. 19 It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.

- He is the one building it.

Matthew 16: 15- 19 "He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." 19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth [b]will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Through revelation and impartation.

Revelation : "Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you." Only God can reveal spiritual truth.

Jesus, after having heard Peter declare the truth, then tells Simon Peter who he is, showing Him how revelation works.

The rock upon which Jesus builds is not Peter.

Peter : Petros. A piece of rock.

Petra : A mass of rock.

Impartation : "I will give you the keys to the kingdom."

1 Corinthians 3:7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.

You cant give what you have not first received.

#### 4/. Our relationship to the Church.



Our relationship to the Church should be nothing less than an absolute and devoted love for the church, its head, its members and its cause.

John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

Agape : To love without conditions, requirement or demand.

The following are a few of the character traits and actions of a good “agape” attitude towards the church.

- Appreciation

Psalm 26:28 Lord, I have loved the habitation of Your house, And the place where Your glory dwells.

Psalm 84:1 How lovely is Your tabernacle, O Lord of hosts!

- Service

Ephesians 4:16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Everyone has a gift and call on their lives that has been invested there by Jesus. We have been given something that someone else needs. We are meant to supply the body with that investment in order for others to walk their path and fulfil their calling.

- Participation

To Embrace our part to play in the building of the church.  
Fighting against a sense of insignificance, lack of value and self worth.

1 Corinthians 12 :14-18 For in fact the body is not one member but many.  
15 If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? 16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? 18 But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.

- Inclusion



To Embrace every other persons part to play in the building of the church.  
Fighting against pride, arrogance, self importance and independence.

1 Corinthians 12: 21-25 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ( Pride, arrogance, self importance, independence ) 22 No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker ( in our own estimation ) are necessary. 23 And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, ( judgemental ) on these we bestow greater honor; and our unrepresentable parts have greater modesty, 24 but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, 25 that there should be no schism ( divisions ) in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.

### Conclusion

Philippians 2:1-8 Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfil my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Prayer for everyone.

"Let this mind be in us lord. Give us a pure heart and a right spirit lord."

