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Lesson 9— Why Church?

i. Introduction (Ephesians 1:22-23)

A. The “BODY OF CHRIST” or the “CHURCH” is how Jesus continues to live His life on earth

Q. What do you think that means? How does Christ live through the “Church”?

Read I Corinthians 12:27

*Christ dwells in the believers

B. Jesus is the HEAD of the Body/Church.

C. The Local Church is a gathering of the “Body of Christ”

Read Acts 2:41-47

Question: What are some of the characteristics of the first Christian church?

-people being saved & baptized; devoted to growing in Christ and in their relationships; had things in common; took care of one another; devoted in attendance; joyful; praising God; God blessed their church, adding to it daily

I. Why Church? To Connect with GOD

Read Ephesians 4:14-16

A. It is through the church that I GROW in knowledge of God’s Word

Question: According to Ephesians 4:14, how is the person described who isn’t growing in Christ?

-child; tossed around, believing anything; being deceived

Question: Do you think it is probable that someone can live the Christian life without being faithful in church?

Talk About It: What are some cool, interesting, or convicting things that you have learned at church over this past year? Would you have learned those things on your own?

B. It is through the church that I set aside time to WORSHIP God

Question: In what ways do I worship God in church?

-prayer; music; service; praise

*While worship isn’t to be only at church, it is a “sanctified” time to ignore the things of life and give God the time that He is due. This time with God also has an awesome way of “rejuvenating” our hearts to worship Him throughout the week.

II. Why Church? To Connect with PEOPLE

A. God uses people to meet our NEEDS (Proverbs 27:17)

*it is easier to walk the Christian walk, with godly people in your life (Prov. 13:20)

1. physical needs (Acts 5:34-35)

2. emotional needs (I Corinthians 12:25-26)

3. spiritual needs

a. godly people give us good ADVICE (Prov. 11:14; 12:1,15)

b. godly people keep us ACCOUNTABLE (Hebrews 3:13; James 4:19-20)

c. godly people help us to hear where God is LEADING

-answers to prayers; pointing out spiritual gifts; etc.

Question: Who are some Godly people that God has put in my life that has helped me in my Christian walk?

Question: Do you agree with the statement "it is easier to walk the Christian walk, with godly people in your life"? Why or why not?

2. God uses ME in the church to meet other's NEEDS

a. applying my talents & spiritual gifts in the local church

*spiritual gifts were given for use in the local church; not for our benefit!

b. using lessons that God has taught me to teach others

c. answering God when He burdens my heart for a need in the church

Ask Yourself: Do I see the importance in being active in the local church?

Ask Yourself: In what ways am I currently allowing God to use me in the local church?

Ask Yourself: What are some gifts that God has given me that I can use in the local church?

Ask Yourself: Are there any needs in the local church that God has burdened my heart with?
-\$\$; nursery/toddlers; music; outreach; discipleship; etc.

Take it Home

Read Acts 2:41-47

Write down some areas that you can work on to live out what it means to be part of the Church.