

PREACHING CURRICULUM



THE CHURCH

ROMANS 9:25-26, 1 PETER 2:4-10, 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-27, EPHESIANS 5:22-33, 1 CORINTHIANS 12:13, GALATIANS 3:23-29, 1 TIMOTHY 3:1-13, TITUS 1:5-9, 1 PETER 5:1-4

"We believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church."

1

REVIEW THE SERMON

The Apostle's Creed states, "I believe in...the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints". Similarly, the Nicene Creed states, "We believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church." How would you define and explain the meaning of each of these terms? _____

Read the following passages: Romans 9:25-26, 1 Peter 2:4-10, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, Ephesians 5:22-33. What are some of the major images used by the New Testament to describe the Church? What do each of these images tell us about the identity and ultimate destiny of the Church? _____

Read 1 Corinthians 12:13 and Galatians 3:23-29. Who can become part of God's Church? How does someone become a member of the Church? What are the qualifications for membership? _____

Read 1 Timothy 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-9, 1 Peter 5:1-4. What are the different leadership roles designated for the Church? What are the characteristics and qualifications required for those who fill such roles? _____

2

ASSESS YOUR LIFE

What are some inadequate or distorted ways people commonly view the Church today? How does the Bible correct these false perspectives? _____

Is the Christian Church "inclusive" or "exclusive"? How might you respond to the common charge that the Church is "exclusionary" and that Christians just want to keep people out? _____

3

APPLY THE TRUTH

How does the Bible's teaching on the Church affect our own attitude and commitment to it? What might it look like in real life if we took the biblical teaching on the Church seriously in actual practice? _____

Why does so much of the Church seem so deeply divided throughout the world today? How is it possible to believe in "one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church" when there are thousands of different Christian denominations and sects in existence? How might we begin to make sense of this? _____

4

COMMIT THIS WEEK

How might the Bible's teaching on the Church affect the way you interact with other Christians this week? _____

5

PRAYER REQUESTS/PRAISE REPORTS

DATE: _____

PERSON	REQUEST	ANSWER/PRAISE REPORT