

STRIVING FOR A SPIRITUALLY-HEALTHY CHURCH

I. What is the **church**? *Group of people unified in Christ and symbolized in baptism*

- Read Ephesians 2:19-22
- Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-13
- Read Ephesians 1:3-14

WE EXIST TO **GLORIFY GOD** THROUGH **JESUS CHRIST**, PERIOD.

II. What is **salvation**?

- #1 — God created us and desires a love-relationship with us. We were intended to reflect God's **glory** and **Kingship**.
- #2 — **Rebellion** against God has completely shut us off from a relationship with God.
- #3 — God's love for us, despite our rebellion, sent Jesus **to pay for all of our sins**.
- #4 — **Trust** in the sufficiency of Jesus' payment on the cross and the resurrection brings forgiveness and cleansing, thus **restoring** us to God again.
- #5 — God **indwells** us through His Holy Spirit, **places us** within His body—the church—and **transforms** us to be fruitful—that is, more and more like Jesus Christ that we may **function** according to how God created us in the first place.

III. Why God expects His church to be **healthy** and **fruitful**:

Matthew 13:1-8, 18-23

Seed beside the road	Birds eat the seed	No reception/Satan takes the word away	No Fruit
Seed on the rocky places	Sun scorches the rootless sprig	Quick decision but troubles expose lack of true faith	No fruit
Seed among the thorns	Thorns choke out the young crop	The worries of this world supersede the kingdom	No fruit
Seed on the good soil	Yielded a harvest	Hears, receives and acts upon the word	FRUIT!!

IV. What is "**Living Worship**" and how do I experience it?

- A. We need to be **Rooted in Community** -
- B. We need to be **Nourished by the Word** -
- C. Cultivating the **Inner-Life** -
- D. Sowing the **Missional Life** -
- E. **Living Worship**.

V. FAQs about what **direction** we're going in:

- A. So what happens next?
- B. So what about these Deeper Roots classes coming up in the next couple of weeks?
- C. What is the point of membership? Doesn't it promote some kind of "club mentality"?
- D. If these are the new membership classes and I'm already a member, do I lose my membership status?
- E. How do I progress from here?

Study Questions for September 20

1. Look up the following passages that describe some of the biblical "one anothers". How should the church behave as a community? Romans 12:10-13:8; Galatians 5:13; Ephesians 4:2, 32; 5:19-21; Colossians 3:13, 16; Hebrews 3:13; 10:24-25; 1 Peter 1:22; 3:8; 4:9; 5:5; 1 John 3:11, 23; 4:7, 11-2.
2. Read Philippians 1:27-2:2. What does a commitment to a community-of-faith look like according to these verses? What are some main components?
3. Read Philippians 2:3-18. How do we as a church (vv. 12-18) model the humility of Jesus (vv. 5:11) in the way we behave as a community?
4. In what ways does the idea of biblical community (from these passages) challenge the way you think about church? About the way you orient life?