

## The Church- Part 2

# How the Church is Formed

“...from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh the increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love,” (Eph. 4:16). Knowing how the church is formed will give a completely different view of the church from most contemporary ideas. The key word in the forming of a church is relationship. The church is formed as relationships are developed. This forming is not so much along the lines of corporate organization. Instead, it is an organic growth of knitting people together in love. As each individual finds a relationship with Jesus, then he will begin to meet others in relationship with Him. As each person is added to the groups of relationships, he brings his own special gifts and building materials.

I. The Basic Stone The basic unit in the body of Christ is the individual member. “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house...” (1 Pet. 2:5). As each stone is built on the foundational life of Jesus, each can see his or her own individual importance and place in the body.

- A. The Stones’ Life. Each individual received life from Jesus. (Jn. 11:25, 14:6; 1Jn. 5:11-12).
  - 1. Every member must be in relationship with Jesus before he can relate to others (I Jn. 1:3, 7; Eph. 4:32).
  - 2. It is through relating with Christ that we learn love. (Jn. 13:34-35; I Jn. 4:9-11).
  - 3. We must draw our life from Him if we are going to have anything to give to others. (I Thes. 4:9-10; Ac. 4:13; Jn. 15:4-5).
  - 4. Jesus is made manifest when believers come together. (Matt. 18:20; Lu. 24:15).

### **IMPORTANT POINTS**

Describe how each stone is to draw its own life.

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- B. The Stone's Importance. Each individual is important. (I Cor. 12:14-27).
1. Each was redeemed by the Cross. (I Cor. 1:18; Jn. 19:16-17).
  2. Each is in the image of Christ. (Rom. 8:29; II Cor. 3:18).
  3. Each is to be given special attention and ministry. (Heb. 13:3; I Cor. 12:7, 11).

**IMPORTANT POINTS**

Why is each stone important?

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- C. The Stone's Place. Each individual is placed by God in the body. (Eph. 1:11-12).
1. People don't just join; God adds them. (Ac. 5:13-14, 2:47, 13:48).
  2. God gives each member a place. (I Cor. 12:18).

II. The Cementing Together of Stones As we live our lives together with a common goal, we are drawn together and forged into a working body. (Eph. 2:19-22).

- A. Drawn Together. The stones do not remain independent of one another.
1. The body is fitly joined and compacted. (Eph. 4:16).
    - a. Joined comes from the Greek sunarmologeō - -“render closely jointed together, organize compactly, be fitly framed together,” (Strong's).
    - b. Compacted comes from the Greek sumbibazo - -“to force, to drive together, unite; to infer, show or teach.” (Strong's).
  2. By the effectual working of every member. (I Pet. 4:10; I Cor. 12:20-25).
  3. Building the body up in love. (I Cor. 8:1; Eph. 5:21, 4:25; Col. 3:12-13, 16).

**IMPORTANT POINTS**

How is each stone drawn together?

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- B. Forged Together. We are knit together in love. (Col. 3:14).
  - 4. This knitting together results in lasting relationships. (Ruth 1:16; II Kings 2:2; Ac. 2:42).
  - 5. This bond of love is strong. (Song of Solomon 8:6-7; I Cor. 12:26).

III. Each Stone Alike There are certain calls which each stone holds in common. We must meet together under the direction of Jesus to fulfill these callings.

- A. Encouraging (Exhorting) one another. (I Thes. 5:11).
  - 1. This protects us from hardening our hearts. (Heb. 3:13)
  - 2. We encourage one another with great patience and careful instruction. (II Tim. 4:2; Titus 1:9).
  - 3. Godly examples: (Lu. 3:18; Ac. 11:23, 14:22, 15:32).

**IMPORTANT POINTS**

How can a Christian encourage another?

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- A. Financially serving one another. (II Cor. 8:1-5; Lev. 27:30; Mal. 3:10).
  - 4. Each one should give whatever he has decided in his heart to give. (II Cor. 9:7; Ex. 35:5).
  - 5. If the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has. (Deu. 16:17; II Cor. 8:12-15).
  - 6. This liberality in giving results in praise to God. (II Cor. 9:13; I Chr. 29:9; II Chr. 31:5, 8).
  - 7. Godly examples: (Ac. 11:29; Ezra 2:68-69; Ex. 36:3; Lu. 21:1-4).
  
- B. Meeting physical needs. (Matt. 25:31-46, Lu. 6:30-31; Matt. 10:8).
  - 1. We must have an open heart that does not avoid the needs of others. (Lu. 10:30-37; Lev. 25:35; Deu. 15:7-8; Gal. 6:10).
  - 2. This should not be done to gain recognition from men. (Matt. 6:1-4).
  - 3. Godly examples: (Job 29:15-16; Ac. 4:34-37; Ph. 2:28-30; II Tim. 1:16-18; Jn. 13:5, 14-15).

**IMPORTANT POINTS**

What principles should be followed in meeting another's physical and financial needs?

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- C. Loving one another. (Jn. 15:12).
  - 1. This love between each other is to continue and increase. (Heb. 13:1; I Thes. 3:12; Ph. 1:9).
  - 2. Our love for each other shows that we are His disciples. (Jn. 13:35; IJn. 4:12).
  - 3. Godly examples: (Ph. 1:8; Ac. 20:38).
  
- D. Bearing one another's Burdens. (Gal. 6:2).
  - 1. We must be willing to volunteer ourselves to another's life. (Ph. 4:3; Neh.11:2; I Pet. 5:2).
  - 2. This is lending strength to another while he is weak. (Rom. 15:1-3; Ac. 20:35).
  - 3. Godly examples: (II Chr. 28:15; Ezra 1:2-6; Ex. 17:9-13; Isa. 53:4; IPet. 2:24).

## **IMPORTANT POINTS**

What is meant by “bearing another’s burdens?”

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IV. Each Stone Different Every stone has specific gifts to contribute with others cannot.

- A. Motivational Gifts. Romans 12:6-8 gives what is commonly known as the motivational gifts. We each have the responsibility to “take heed to the ministry which [we] have received in the Lord, that [we] fulfill it,” (Col. 4:17).
1. Prophecy. A person with this gift generally sees things in black and white and can deliver a message from and by the Spirit of God. (Ac. 11:27-29, 21:10-11).
  2. Ministry. A better word would be serving. This person has a keen eye for needs and can meet them. (II Tim. 1:16-18; Ac. 6:1-3).
  3. Teaching. This person is gifted by God to explain things so people can understand. (Ac. 18:24-28).
  4. Exhorting. This person knows how to motivate people to do God’s word. (I Sam. 23:15-17; I Thes. 2:11-12).
  5. Giving. A person with the gift of giving as a motivation is able to be a good steward with his possessions and meet physical/financial needs. (Ac. 9:36, 39, 10:2).
  6. Ruling. A ruling gift manifests itself in an ability to keep people informed and directed in the right way, understanding God-given authority. (Ac. 15:22-31).
  7. Showing mercy. This person is able to go the extra mile with people who need extra help. (II Cor. 2:5-10).

## **IMPORTANT POINTS**

List and briefly describe the motivational gifts.

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B. Functional Gifts. I Corinthians 12:4-10 lists nine gifts of function which are manifested through the Body of Christ. We each have the responsibility to “stir up the gift of God” within for His glory. II Tim. 1:6.

1. Word of wisdom. This is an impartation of God showing us what to do or how to do something. (Ac. 9:12, 10:20, 8:29).
2. Word of knowledge. In this case knowledge is given which would have been hidden to our natural senses. (Ac. 9:11, 10:29).
3. Faith. Here God imparts faith where there was previously little or no faith, that we might receive His promises in any number of areas. (I Cor. 13:2; II Cor. 4:13; Ac. 3:16).
4. Gifts of healings. This is when God restores a physical body which was previously sick or damaged. (Ac. 5:15, 14:10, 19:11-12).
5. Working of miracles. This includes any number of supernatural things, such as a healing in which something was created which was formerly not there, and the casting out of demons. (Ac. 8:6-7, 14:3, 15:12, 16:25-26).
6. Prophecy. The mind of the Spirit is here spoken through the natural speech organs for the purpose of stirring up the church and giving direction for meetings. (I Cor. 14:3; I Tim. 1:18, 4:14; II Sam. 23:2; Matt. 22:43).
7. Discerning of spirits. The discernment reveals the Holy Spirit, angels, demons, or a brother’s spirit. (Lu. 1:11-12; Ac. 16:18, 14:9).
8. Divers kinds of tongues. Here is a supernatural utterance in a language not understood in the mind of a speaker. (Ac. 2:4-12; Dan.5:5-9).
9. Interpretation of tongues. This gift reveals what was shown forth in tongues. (I Cor. 14:13-16, 27; Dan. 5:10-12, 25-28).

**IMPORTANT POINTS**

List and briefly describe the functional gifts.

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V. Point of Decision So, the church is not formed through an organization which sticks people into slots; instead, it is formed as each member grows in his relationship to the Lord and other Christians. As this organic growth takes place, bonds are formed which Satan cannot break. The organization of the church then is based on love rather than selfish greed for power, recognition, or money.

**PERSONAL APPLICATION - HOW THE CHURCH IS FORMED**

1. As an individual stone (or member) of the church, I am to be fitted and joined together with others by....

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2. This week, how can I fulfill some of the common areas of service that each member is to give?

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3. At this point of decision, I desire to seek which specific motivational and functional gifts that Jesus wants me to come forth in. Right now they seem to be....

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