

Session 15

**What  
about  
the  
church**



## What is the church?

- Popular misconceptions:
  - Church = services
  - Church = buildings

## 1. FRIENDS (John 15:15)

- Friends with Jesus
- Friends with one another (Hebrews 10:25)
- Greek word *koinonia* = fellowship

## 2. FAMILY (1 John 5:1)

- God as our Father (John 1:12)
- Brothers and sisters to each other (1 John 4:19 – 5:1)
- Importance of unity
- Jesus prayed ‘... that they may be one’ (John 17:11)

### **Becoming a Christian involves:**

- Something God does – he gives you the Holy Spirit
- Something you do – you repent and believe
- Something the church does – baptism

Baptism is the visible mark of being a member of the church.

### **Baptism signifies:**

- Cleansing from sin (1 Corinthians 6:11)
- Dying and rising with Christ (Romans 6:3–5; Colossians 2:12)

### 3. HOME (Ephesians 2:19–22)

- Old Testament – physical temple was God’s home
- New Testament – a building made up of people (Ephesians 2:21–22)
  - Jesus as the cornerstone (v.20)
  - Indwelt by God’s Spirit (v.21) ‘a holy temple’
  - A place where people are loved, accepted and welcomed home

### 4. JESUS (1 Corinthians 12:1–27)

- We are the body of Christ through whom the world will see Jesus (v.27)
- Universal church (Ephesians 3:10,21; 5:23,25)
  - Unity (John 17:20–21)
  - Diversity (Ephesians 4:7–11)
  - Mutual dependence (vv.14–26)

### 5. LOVE (Ephesians 5:25–27,32)

- Jesus loves the church; Jesus loves you (v.25)
- The church should be famous for its love

**‘You can do what I cannot do, I can do what you cannot do; together we can do great things’**

**MOTHER TERESA**



## ENDNOTES

1. CS Lewis, *The Weight of Glory* (Zondervan: Michigan, 2001)
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**Is there more to life than this?**

**Why and how do I pray?**

**Does God heal today?**

Alpha looks at these and other questions, providing a practical introduction to the Christian faith.

This guide runs alongside Alpha, highlighting the main points and providing space for notes.

Over a series of interactive sessions, Alpha helps guests explore the meaning of life, revealing that Christianity can be every bit as relevant to life today as it was 2,000 years ago.

For more information on Alpha, please visit **alpha.org**

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