



2.4 Each member understands the call to be unified with all other believers.

This KMI is the beginning study of a HUGE element of God’s Kingdom, the Church. What is the Church? Why did He put it together? What’s its purpose? How are we supposed to fit into it? So much of the New Testament is written to define or support the Church that It seems overwhelming to try to grasp everything. **But this KMI is specifically about being unified with other true believers in the Church.**

A good starting place is to look at this overview of what the Church means to believers:

“...the church is not a building or a denomination. According to the Bible, the church is the body of Christ—all those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation ([John 3:16](#); [1 Corinthians 12:13](#)). Local churches are gatherings of people who claim the name of Christ. Members of a local church may or may not be members of the universal church, depending on the genuineness of their faith. The local church is where believers can fully apply the “body” principles of 1 Corinthians chapter 12—encouraging, teaching, and building one another up in the knowledge and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. ([Got Questions.org](#))

Read Acts 2:41-47.

Q. What strikes you about this group of people as unique?

This group is part of the post-resurrection church, the *ecclesia* (*assembly, congregation, or meeting*) that Jesus started and that he talks about in [Matthew 16:18](#). It is an assembly of unique people; a new beginning for people who responded to Peter's call to "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Because of their response to the gospel, they were changed. They were devoted, awe-filled, united and gathered, generous with each other, joyful and grateful. And they were growing. Who wouldn't want to be part of a group like that?

Read 1 Corinthians 12.

1 Corinthians 12 starts out talking about spiritual gifts. This was something that the Holy Spirit had given to each person in the Church. It is part of receiving "the gift of the Holy Spirit" Peter was talking about in [Acts 2](#). Notice how often Paul identifies the Holy Spirit as the leading and uniting factor in this assembly. Different gifts, same Spirit. Variety of service, same Lord, etc.

Q. Why might it be important to notice the Spiritual rhythm of variety-unity in this passage?

UNIQUE TOGETHER

Read Ephesians 4:11-16.

Q. Paul identifies five roles in the Church to equip us. Equip us for what?

God wants us to be prepared, 'equipped' for ministry of the church. He wants us united in the faith, mature, equipped until we achieve the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. He wants us protected from spiritual immaturity, and deception. Finally, He wants us joined together so we grow together.

Q. Are you part of the Church, the body of Christ? If so, how are you changing because of that?

SUMMARY

Being part of the Church is being part of Christ. It is what He started 2,000 years ago. His Holy Spirit is a gift to all who are part of the church and each of us brings a unique gifting to share. When we do, we are equipped, we are maturing, and we are united together and with Him. This is the plan; be part of it.

LEADERSHIP CONNECTION QUESTION

Q. How do you think being part of the Church, Christ's ecclesia, affects your leadership?

RESOURCES FOR NEXT STEPS

- Read the book of Acts
- RightNow Media @WorkStudy
The Acts of the Apostles
<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/499781>
- Books
Acts: An Exposition Bible Study
https://www.amazon.com/dp/1642891851?_encoding=UTF8&psc=1&ref_=cm_sw_r_cp_ud_dp_PQ4ZRT398KRB45QVE7Q1
Acts: The Birth of the Church
https://www.amazon.com/dp/0310091608?ref_=cm_sw_r_cp_ud_dp_G0KE1CK0S89E3CDZ352F