

# The Church

Session 1

# The Church

- *What is the church?*

~~Church – 1. a building for public worship; 2. public worship; a religious service; 3. a particular sect or denomination of Christians; 4. church government, or its power, as opposed to civil government; 5. the profession of the clergy; 6. a group of worshippers.~~

Church – a gathering of people who have been called together.

# The Church

- The universal church: Ephesians 3vs20-21
- The local church: Acts 11vs25-26, 14vs23, 15vs41, Revelation 1vs4

# Who are the members of a church?

- 1 Corinthians 1vs2
- Acts 2vs38-47
- Those who:
  - Have been set apart
  - Have repented of their sin
  - Have believed the word of God
  - Have been baptised
  - Meet together for worship, fellowship, prayer and learning

# Bible pictures

- A body – 1 Cor. 12vs27
- Christ's body – Eph. 5vs23, 1vs22
- A family – 1 Thes. 5vs25, Phil. 4vs8, 1 Timothy 3vs15
- The bride of Christ – Eph. 5vs24

# The purpose of the local church

- Worship
  - Study and proclaim the word of God (Acts 2vs42)
  - Prayer (Acts 2vs42)
- Fellowship (Acts 2vs42, 1 Thess. 5vs11)
- Care of God's people (Gal. 6vs2, Roms 12vs10, Eph. 4vs32, 1 John 3vs11)
- Administer baptism and the Lord's Supper (Acts 2vs41-42, 1 Cor. 11vs23+)
- Growth in godliness
  - Teaching (Acts 2vs42)
  - Training (Eph. 4vs12, Romans 15vs4)
  - Discipline (Matthew 18vs15-17, 1 Cor. 5vs2)
- Works of service (Eph. 4vs12)
- Mission (Acts 1vs8, Phil. 1vs4-5)
- Guardians of sound doctrine (1 Tim. 3vs15, 2 Tim. 2vs1-2)

Where does the local church fit into your thinking and your life?