

Immanuel Church Brentwood

Sunday School: **Following Jesus**

Part 3: The Church - Musketeers not Lone Rangers

Please read these verses and in pairs or threes discuss the questions below:

Read Ephesians 2:11-22

Read Romans 12:3-6

Question: How is the Church described in these verses?

Question: How should a church community look? What should it be like to be part of a church?

1. WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

Not a building/event - The elect people of God gathered together

Universal & Local

A family of musketeers

2. WHAT ARE THE MARKS OF A HEALTHY LOCAL CHURCH?

- **Expositional preaching**
- **The true gospel is taught**
- **Evangelism**
- **Church discipline**
- **Discipleship**
- **Leadership**
- **Membership**

3. WHAT DOES A LOCAL CHURCH DO?

- **Sunday gatherings**
- **Baptism**
- **The Lord's Supper**
- **Prayer**

4. THE MASTER BUILDER USES SCAFFOLDING TO BUILD THE CHURCH

"The most significant thing happening in history is the calling, redeeming, and perfecting of the people of God. God is building the church of Jesus Christ. The rest of history is simply a stage God erects for that purpose. He is calling out a people. He is perfecting them. He is changing them. History's great climax comes when God brings down the curtain on this bankrupt world and the Lord Jesus Christ arrives in his infinite glory. The rest of history is simply the scaffolding for the real work. There will come a day when God will pull down the scaffolding of world history. Do you know what He will be pointing to when He says to the whole creation, "There is my masterpiece"? He will be pointing to the church of Jesus Christ. In the forefront of it all will be the Lord Jesus Himself who will come and say, "Here am I, and the children you have given me, perfected in the beauty of holiness."

Discussion questions

Question: How do you feel about the challenge to commit to a church and make it your priority? And the impact on both you and your brothers and sisters if you don't?

Question: What aspects of church life do you love and what do you find difficult? How has church helped or hindered your faith? Be honest!

Question time