

## Growth Track Two

### 201: Biblical Foundations for Life

#### Session 5: The Role of the Church in my Life

**Overview:** At the conclusion of this session, students will see the contrast between the traditional view of the church and the biblical view. They will understand the origins of the church and its importance in our world today.

#### Biblical vs. Traditional Views of the Church

Biblical view	Traditional view
The Church is a people	The Church is a place
Church is a necessity	Church is optional
Interdependence is valued	Individualism is valued
Spirituality in community	Religion is a private matter
Active in social concerns	Focus on personal needs
Diversity is celebrated	Segregation is practiced
Authenticity and sincerity	Hypocrisy

#### The Beginning of the Church

##### 1. The Church was envisioned by God.

Deuteronomy 7:6 NIV *For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.*

1 Peter 2:9 NIV *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

## **2. The Church was established by Jesus.**

Matthew 16:18 NIV [Jesus] *"I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it."*

- a. Whose church is it? His.
- b. Who builds the church? He does.
- c. Who is the enemy of the church? Hell itself.
- d. What can the enemy do to stop the church? Nothing.

## **3. The Church was launched by the Holy Spirit.**

Acts 2:14-16 NCV *But Peter stood up with the eleven apostles, and in a loud voice he spoke to the crowd: "My fellow Jews, and all of you who are in Jerusalem, listen to me. Pay attention to what I have to say. These people are not drunk, as you think...but Joel the prophet wrote about what is happening here today..."*

## What the Church is Called to Be.

### 1. The church is ekklesia.

- a. *Ekklesia* means the called-out ones, the assembly, the community.
- b. *Ekklesia* occurs 114 times in the New Testament.
- c. It refers to the universal church and the local church.
  - The emphasis in the universal church is unity in diversity, under Christ.
  - The emphasis in the local church is missions.

### 2. The church is koinonia.

- a. *Koinonia* means fellowship, caring, sharing, participating.
- b. *Koinonia* is characterized by:
  - Acceptance

1 John 1:6-7 NIV *If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*

- Unity

Philippians 2:1-2 NIV *If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.*

Proverbs 29:18 KJV *Where there is no vision, the people perish....*

- Giving

2 Corinthians 8:3-4 NIV *For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints.*

- Support

1 Corinthians 12:26 NIV *If one part [of the body of Christ] suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.*

## **The Mission of the Church.**

### **1. A clear mission provides *direction* not just *activity*.**

Matthew 22:37-40 NIV *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.*

Matthew 28:19-20 NIV *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*

## **2. There are four primary aspects of the mission.**

- a. Connect to God and His family.

Ephesians 2:19 TLB *You are members of God's very own family... and you belong in God's household with every other Christian.*

- b. Grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ.

2 Peter 3:18 NIV *...grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

- c. Serve as you are being served.

1 Peter 4:10 NIV *Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.*

- d. Lead others to connect, grow, serve and lead.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NIV *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.*

**Discussion:**

1. Which Biblical view of the church have you most struggled to find and/or adopt in your Christian experience?
2. Share some ways you've seen *koinonia* demonstrated.
3. Share your next step in engaging with the mission of the church.