

# Everything You Wanted to Know about 'Church' but were Afraid to Ask! "Why Belong to a Spiritual Family?"

Ephesians 2:11-22

If you belong to Jesus, then "we are family"!

(with special thanks to Sister Sledge!)

## 1. Belonging helps you develop healthy relationships.

- 1) Healthy relationships are marked by commitment.
- 2) Healthy relationships are marked by honesty.
- 3) Healthy relationships are marked by vulnerability.
- 4) Healthy relationships are marked by effort.

## 2. Belonging helps you develop godly character.

- 1) What are those qualities? Read Galatians 5:22-23 for starters!
- 2) Are you more like Jesus today than yesterday?

## 3. Belonging helps you develop biblical values.

- 1) What are your values—name them one by one!
- 2) What is the ultimate source of your values—where do they come from?

## 4. Belonging helps you develop a support system.

- 1) No one can "do it all alone." Why try to?
- 2) Everyone wants to belong to a loving family. Why not choose to belong to this one?
- 3) Belonging is good for you, for others and, for God's work in the world.

## "How to Belong to this Spiritual Family?"

Ephesians 2:11-22

### Key Truths about Jesus' Church

1. The church is a \_\_\_\_\_ whose foundation is \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus.
2. God \_\_\_\_\_ every believer in Jesus to be a \_\_\_\_\_ of a church family.
3. A Christian without a church family is in \_\_\_\_\_ with the biblical witness.

"...you are a member of God's very own family...and you belong in God's household with every other Christian." (Ephesians 2:19)

## 4 Essential Elements Make us a Spiritual Family

1. Salvation: What God has done for us and our response
  - a. Admit you have sinned.
  - b. Believe in your heart that Jesus is the Risen Savior.
  - c. Confess Jesus as the Lord of your life.
  - d. Be baptized by immersion as a symbol of your personal faith and become a fully-devoted disciple.
2. Statements: Why we exist as a church
  - a. Our purpose and vision statements
  - b. Our \_\_\_\_\_ beliefs
    - (1) The Bible
    - (2) The triune God
    - (3) Humanity, sin and Satan
    - (4) Salvation and the priesthood of every believer
    - (5) The Church
    - (6) Last Things, death and resurrection
    - (7) Cooperation with Baptists and all believers for the furtherance of Jesus' Kingdom
  - c. Our \_\_\_\_\_ practices
    - (1) The Bible is our sole authority for faith and practice.
    - (2) The autonomy of the local church.
    - (3) The priesthood of every believer.
    - (4) The joy and privilege of tithing and giving.
    - (5) Baptism by immersion.
    - (6) The Spirit-controlled life.
    - (7) The Sharing of the Good News.
3. Strategy: How we have and will fulfill our purpose
  - a. FBC \_\_\_\_\_ Lesson: Where we have been
  - b. FBC \_\_\_\_\_ Dreams: Where we hope to be
  - c. FBC \_\_\_\_\_: Where we are now
4. Structure: When and where we are fulfilling our purpose
  - a. Our church organization: Staff, Deacons, Committees and Ministry Teams.
  - b. Our Hope is in \_\_\_\_\_: Every \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ doing their ministry!
  - c. Our church is a \_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_, a living \_\_\_\_\_, and a \_\_\_\_\_.

Believe, Belong, Become—you can do it!