

Session 15

**What
about
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What is the church?

- Popular misconceptions:
 - Church = services
 - Church = buildings

- Friends with Jesus
- Friends with one another (Hebrews 10:25)
- Greek word *koinonia* = fellowship

- God as our Father (John 1:12)
- Brothers and sisters to each other (1 John 4:19 – 5:1)
- Importance of unity
- Jesus prayed “... that they may be one.” (John 17:11)

Becoming a Christian involves:

- Something God does—He gives you the Holy Spirit
- Something you do—you repent and believe
- Something the church does—baptism

Baptism is the visible mark of being a member of the church.

Baptism signifies:

- Cleansing from sin (1 Corinthians 6:11)
- Dying and rising with Christ (Romans 6:3–5; Colossians 2:12)

- Old Testament—physical temple was God's home
- New Testament—a building made up of people (Ephesians 2:21–22)
 - Jesus as the cornerstone (v.20)
 - Indwelt by God's Spirit (v.21) “a holy temple”
 - A place where people are loved, accepted, and welcomed home

- We are the body of Christ through whom the world will see Jesus. (v.27)
- Universal church (Ephesians 3:10,21; 5:23,25)
 - Unity (John 17:20–21)
 - Diversity (Ephesians 4:7–11)
 - Mutual dependence (vv.14–26)

- Jesus loves the church; Jesus loves you. (v.25)
- The church should be famous for its love.

“You can do what I cannot do, I can do what you cannot do; together we can do great things.”

(MOTHER TERESA)

