



## Scotts Hill Baptist Church

CHURCH QUESTIONS • WHAT IS THE CHURCH? • EPHESIANS 2:19-22 • 7/12/26

### MAIN POINT

The church is God's people, established by Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and gathered together as local embassies of heaven to display God's glory and advance His kingdom.

### INTRODUCTION

**When you hear the word "church," what is the first thing that comes to mind—a building, a worship service, or a group of people? Why?**

**What has been one of the most meaningful experiences you've had as part of a local church?**

**Why do you think many people today question the importance of belonging to a local church?**

In a culture that often minimizes or misunderstands the church, many Christians view church attendance as optional rather than essential. Yet Scripture presents the church as God's design for His people. The church is far more than a building or a weekly event—it is God's redeemed people gathered together to worship Christ, encourage one another, and proclaim the gospel to the world.

### UNDERSTANDING

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ EPHESIANS 2:19-22.

**According to Paul, how does he describe the church in these verses?**

**Why is it significant that Paul calls believers "members of the household of God"?**

Paul gives four important pictures of the church. The church is a people, not a place; an organism, not merely an organization; a family, not simply a fraternity; and both local and universal. These images remind us that the church is a living community united by Christ rather than a physical building or human institution.

**How does viewing the church as a family change the way we relate to one another?**

**Why is it important to remember that we don't simply "go to church" but gather as the church?**

The New Testament emphasizes the importance of the local church as the visible expression of Christ's people. While every believer belongs to the universal church, God calls Christians to commit themselves to a local body where they worship, grow, serve, and care for one another.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MATTHEW 16:18, ACTS 2:1-4, AND ACTS 1:8.

**According to these passages, how did the church come into existence?**

**What role did each member of the Trinity play in establishing the church?**

The sermon highlights three foundational truths: Jesus established the church, the Holy Spirit inaugurated the church at Pentecost, and faithful believers carried the gospel to the nations through the Spirit's power. The church exists because of God's sovereign plan and continues because of His ongoing work through His people.

**Why is it encouraging to know that Jesus promised to build His church?**

**How should knowing the Holy Spirit empowers the church affect our confidence in ministry today?**

**What responsibility do believers have in continuing Christ's mission?**

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 2:41-47 AND HEBREWS 13:17.

**Why do these passages suggest that believers were committed to specific local churches?**

**Why do you think church membership is sometimes viewed negatively today?**

Although the New Testament never commands believers to "join a church" in those exact words, it consistently presents Christians as belonging to identifiable local congregations. These churches practiced baptism and the Lord's Supper together, cared for one another, submitted to spiritual leadership, and lived in accountable community.

**What blessings come from belonging to a committed church family?**

**Why are accountability and submission important parts of Christian growth?**

**How does meaningful church membership help believers mature spiritually?**

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ EPHESIANS 3:10-11.

**According to Paul, what is God's purpose for the church?**

**What does it mean that the church is an "embassy of heaven"?**

Paul describes the church as the means through which God displays His wisdom to the world. Like an embassy represents one nation inside another, the local church represents the kingdom of heaven in a fallen world. Together we encourage one another, protect one another, and proclaim the good news of King Jesus.

**How can our church better represent Christ in our community?**

**What does it look like for believers to "belong together, believe together, and build together"?**

**How does participating in a healthy local church strengthen your walk with Christ?**

## APPLICATION

**How has your understanding of the church been challenged or strengthened by this passage?**

**In what ways are you actively contributing to the health of your local church?**

**If you are a member of a local church, how are you intentionally investing in its people and mission?**

**If you struggle with commitment to the local church, what might be holding you back?**

**What is one practical way you can encourage, serve, or disciple someone in your church this week?**

**How can you help your church better function as an embassy of heaven in your community?**

## PRAYER

Close in prayer, thanking God for creating the church through His eternal plan of redemption. Praise Him for establishing the church through Jesus Christ, empowering it by the Holy Spirit, and inviting us into His family through the gospel. Pray that our church would faithfully reflect Christ's character, proclaim His truth, and love one another deeply. Ask God to strengthen our commitment to His local church and to use us as faithful ambassadors of His kingdom in our community.

## COMMENTARY

EPHESIANS 2:19-22

Paul teaches that believers are no longer strangers but members of God's household. The church is God's redeemed people, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Jesus Christ as the cornerstone. As living stones, believers are being joined together into a dwelling place for God through the Holy Spirit.

MATTHEW 16:18; ACTS 1:8; ACTS 2:1-4

The church exists because of God's work. Jesus promised to build His church, the Holy Spirit inaugurated it at Pentecost, and faithful believers spread the gospel throughout the world. The Father planned the church, the Son purchased it, and the Holy Spirit empowers it for ministry.

ACTS 2:41-47; HEBREWS 13:17

The New Testament consistently presents believers as belonging to identifiable local congregations. Church membership provides fellowship, discipleship, accountability, leadership, and opportunities to use spiritual gifts for the good of the body. Healthy Christian growth takes place within committed relationships in the local church.

EPHESIANS 3:10-11

The local church functions as an embassy of heaven, representing Christ's kingdom in the world. Through the church, God displays His wisdom and advances His redemptive purposes. As believers gather to worship and scatter to serve, they demonstrate the reality of God's kingdom and invite others to become citizens of heaven through faith in Jesus Christ.