

# Christian Doctrine

## The Church (Conclusion)

### ***An Honest Evaluation***

As we have worked through this study of the church, we have seen various aspects of what a church is and what a church should do. In conclusion, let us think through a few questions that we must ask ourselves.

### ***Do We Appreciate the Church?***

As we have seen, the church began when believers were first baptized by the Holy Spirit and united to form the Body of Christ. As a church, we are joined together with other Christians to show love, offer accountability, and give direction as we each grow in our walk with the Lord. We are God's special "called out" people who He uses to accomplish His purpose in this day and age. We must cherish this unique opportunity God has given us to grow together with other believers.

### ***Do We Understand the Reason the Church Exists?***

As we have seen, the church should not be viewed simply as a place where people sing and listen to sermons. The church is, in actuality, the people themselves who have been united in Christ. We must work to encourage and build up each other, provide strength and support for one another, and join together on mission to reach the lost. When the church is doing what it is intended to do, its members will both experience discipleship and be active in evangelism. Rather than just being caught up in traditions, the church should be evidence of the power of God being lived out in its people.

### ***Are We Involved in Our Church?***

Being part of a church comes with privileges and responsibilities. We as believers have not been called to just sit back and relax, but rather to get involved and use the gifts God has given us to minister to other believers. We cannot allow ourselves to become individuals who just *say* we "go to church." Rather, we must *be* the church (active participants!), who allow God to use us for His purposes!