

The Church in the New Testament

(Sunday AM — Church Campus)

Week 11: Review and Application

Over the past ten weeks, we have walked through the story of the church as God established and shaped it in the New Testament. We have seen the universal church begin on the day of Pentecost when God added the first saved individuals to the body of Christ, and we have seen local congregations unified in prayer and devotion, organized through wise leadership, driven by evangelism, committed to making disciples, sent out on mission, grounded in doctrinal truth, shepherded by faithful elders, functioning as communities where individual members of the body serve one another, and anchored to the apostles' teaching.

This final lesson is an opportunity to step back and see the full picture. The New Testament does not present the church as a human organization that evolved over centuries. It presents the church as God's creation, purchased by the blood of Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and governed by the word of God. The church belongs to Christ. Its identity, its mission, and its practices are defined not by culture, tradition, or convenience, but by Scripture.

As we review what we have learned, the goal is not merely to recall facts but to ask ourselves: Are we experiencing the church the New Testament describes? Are we devoted to what the early church was devoted to? Are we willing to let Scripture, rather than human preference, shape every aspect of our life together as God's people?

Group Discussion: As you look back over this entire study, which lesson challenged you the most? Which one changed the way you think about the church or your role in it?

Personal Reflection: If someone who had never been to church visited our congregation, would they recognize us as a church like we read about in the New Testament? What strengths would they see, and what areas might need growth?

Study Questions

1. From Acts 2:36–47, we learned how the church was established. In your own words, what is the church, and how does a person become a member of it?
2. From Acts 4:23–35, we saw a church united in prayer and generosity. How would you evaluate our own congregation's commitment to prayer and to caring for one another's needs?
3. From Acts 6:1–7, we learned about the importance of service and shared leadership. How well does our congregation involve its members in meaningful service, and what could be improved?

4. From Acts 8:26–40, Philip’s example taught us about personal evangelism and the centrality of baptism. Are you personally prepared to share the gospel and explain the necessity of baptism to someone who asks?
5. From Acts 11:19–26, we learned about the church at Antioch and the importance of discipleship. What steps is our congregation taking to grow disciples, not just members, and how can you contribute?
6. From Acts 13:1–12, we saw the church at Antioch send Barnabas and Saul on mission. How does our congregation support gospel work beyond our own walls, and is there more you could do?
7. From Acts 15:1–21, we learned how the early church resolved doctrinal questions. When disagreements arise in our congregation, are they handled with Scripture, patience, and respect, or with politics and emotion?
8. From Acts 20:17–38, Paul charged the Ephesian elders to shepherd and protect the flock. How can you better support and encourage the shepherds of a congregation?
9. From 1 Corinthians 12:12–27, we were reminded that the church is one body with many members. Are there members of our congregation who may feel overlooked or undervalued? What can you do about that?
10. Looking at everything we have studied together, what is the most important lesson you are taking away, and what specific change will you make in your own life as a result?

Now or Later

Reflect on these passages: **Ephesians 3:20–21** — To God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus; **Hebrews 10:24–25** — Encouraging one another and not neglecting to meet together; **Revelation 2–3** — Christ’s letters to the seven churches: commendation and warning