



BETHEL AG CHURCH
INTERNATIONAL WORSHIP CENTRE



THE CHURCH & EVANGELISM

A CHURCH THAT DOESN'T EVANGELIZE WILL SOON FOSSILIZE

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What is a Church?

The Church is much more than a building or a place. The Church is God's idea of a community for all true believers in Him at all times. The Early Church began as an unflinching movement by the disciples of Lord Jesus Christ; they proclaimed the bold truths of God's Grace and Salvation to all of humanity. The 'Church' in the New Testament has its origins in the Greek word "ekklesia" which means an assembly or congregation.

The Church exists to proclaim the Good News that's mentioned in **Acts 4:12**, *"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

Why is the Church important?

Lord Jesus Christ is the head of the Church and He promised to build the Church. (**Ephesians 5:25, Matthew 16:18**)

- The primary objective of the Church's is to worship God.
- Anyone who newly accepts Jesus as their Lord and Saviour needs a church family to grow (**2 Corinthians 5:17**).
- The Church exists to nurture and build up those who are already believers. (Once you believe in Lord Jesus, you need to belong in a church)
- The Church exists to evangelize to the world based on the Great commission given by Lord Jesus. *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."* (**Matthew 28:19-20**)
"A church that doesn't evangelize will soon fossilize."

What does the Church represent?

The Church represents Christ and His works for the whole world. The purpose of the Church is for its Head (Jesus) to be revealed in the body (Church) i.e., Christ be revealed in the Church. The Church exists to share God's Grace that transforms people's lives and the Church stands on the Truth of God's Word to measure these changes.

All true Christians belong together in the Body of Christ (**1 Corinthians 12:27**), purchased by Jesus' Blood shed on the Cross. *"There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all"* (**Ephesians 4:4-6**)

Why should I be faithful to my church with my time, talents, and treasure?

It's clearly commanded in the Bible that one must be faithful to serve God in and through the local Church for a lifetime. It is during the gatherings of the Church that the teaching of God's Word feeds the sheep, the worship of God revives the soul, and the prayers of the people to God are effective in tearing down walls that have been raised in opposition to Christ. The Church gathering is a vital time for Christian growth where you invest your time, treasure, and talents to become mature believers in Christ.

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Acts 2:42, "They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

Hebrews 10:25, "Not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some..."
(Being faithful to the Church gatherings cannot be substituted by listening to downloads of sermons off the internet, listening to Christian music, or reading books by Christian authors. Spiritual maturity comes only if you're an active part of the local Church, otherwise your Christian life will be imbalanced.)

What is MY primary role in the Church?

MY primary role is to fulfill the Great Commandment & the Great Commission.

Great Commandment

Matthew 22:36-40, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Great Commission

Matthew 28:19 – 20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

What is the Pastor's primary role in the Church?

A pastor wears many hats. He has many responsibilities toward the Church, such as, to nourish, protect, unite, lead, love, heal, pray, etc. But the primary role of a Pastor, according to the biblical model addressed in **Ephesians 4:12-13**, is to *"equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."*

The primary job of a pastor is not to visit houses or to know people personally (which also has its place) but it is primarily to teach and prepare the Church to do the ministry of Christ, so that everyone will have a pastor's heart to love God and to love the people around them.

Should I be a part of a prayer group of the Church if I'm faithful in attending church on Sundays?

We see from the Book of Acts (**Acts 2:42-46**) that the early Church often met in two types of gatherings:

- 1) In large groups - in the temple to worship God.
- 2) In small groups - in homes for fellowship, shared meals, and prayer.

Small groups (prayer groups) are therefore essentially God's idea for the growth and edification of the Body of Christ. As we believe that loving God and loving people sum up the evidence of a person's spiritual growth and maturity, we want people to grow personally in their intimacy with God, to fellowship with believers, and to influence the outsiders who are in the world. These characteristics in a person can bear fruits only in the prayer groups of the Church.

*"Day after day, in the temple courts and from **house to house** they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the Good News that Jesus is the Christ." Acts 5:42*

"People eager to hear Good News about JESUS are waiting for you."

How to identify a true Church by the definitions of the Bible?

In the early centuries of the Christian Church, there was little controversy about a 'true Church'. There was only one world-wide Church by Lord Jesus Christ that officially started on the day of Pentecost (**Acts 1 & 2**).

The key indications of a true Church would be:

1) A place where Lord Jesus Christ is taught and worshipped (Ephesians 4:12-13, Colossians 1:28)

1 Corinthians 1:23, "but we preach Christ crucified..."

2) A place where worshipping God is celebrated (Colossians 3:16, Ephesians 1:12)
John 4:24, "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

3) A place where anti-biblical or anti-Christian elements are not present, such as, idols, practice of a sinful lifestyle, or forceful removal of ornaments or sandals. (Exodus 20:1-4, 1 Corinthians 6:18, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5)

What is Evangelism?

Evangelism means to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with a lost person. An expanded definition of evangelism can be stated as, "Evangelism is sharing the good news of Lord Jesus Christ by word and life in the power of the Holy Spirit, so that people will put their trust in God through Jesus Christ, accept Him as their Saviour and serve Him as their Lord in the fellowship of the Church."

What do you mean by the Gospel or Good news of Jesus Christ?

The central truth of the Gospel is that God has provided a way of salvation for all men through Lord Jesus Christ. He suffered as a sacrifice for sin on the cross, died for our sins, on the third day rose again, and remains alive forevermore. The Gospel is good news because it is a gift from God, not something that we can earn by our good works. (John 3:16, Romans 5:8-11, 2 Corinthians 5:14-19, 1 Corinthians 15:1-9)

Titus 2:11 -12, "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,"

Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes."

What is GOD's role in evangelism?

- God provides a ripe opportunity for a believer to share the Gospel, if we are sensitive to Him. God always initiates and draws people to Himself (John 6:44)
- Holy Spirit convicts a person of sin, righteousness, and judgment. (John 16:7-11)
- Holy Spirit produces the miracles of life transformations and healings. (1 Thessalonians 1:5, Luke 10:9)

What is MY role in Evangelism?

Some believe that Evangelism is the work of a few professionals or pastors who have the gift of Evangelism, but the Bible says, **“Evangelism is everyone’s work.”**

- You are called to be a witness of Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 1:8).
- You are the Salt and the Light of this world (Matthew 5:13-16)
- We need to be intentional about evangelism (as a lifestyle)
- Have compassion on people and have relationship build in love and wisdom.

Acts 4:29-30, “Grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of Jesus.”

Will God tell me when it is time to share the Gospel?

Not necessarily. In Acts 8, Philip was led down the desert road and to the chariot by the Spirit. Once he was there and after he overheard the Ethiopian reading, Philip realized to seize the moment and share the Gospel. The text does not say that the Spirit told him to speak.

**"Lord Jesus is worth it.
He is Great News."**

How can I share about Jesus?

- Always talk about Jesus’ ability, His character, and HIS purposes over our lives.
- Be simple, friendly, and non-argumentative in all your conversations.
- Don’t focus on a method but rather the message. (Your methods can vary but your message remains the same)

Colossians 4:6, “Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt”

1 Peter 3:15, “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”

What are the obstacles I am likely to face when I share about Jesus?

Some common fears are as following:

1. I don't know enough to share.
2. I don't have all the tools to do it.
3. I am afraid I might mess it up.
4. I am worried God won't show up.
5. I am afraid that I might offend them.

Whatever our fears, we must overcome them to fulfill the Lord's command to be His witnesses. The Lord wants to use us as instruments in His hands to move the Gospel forward to the world. Just like David defeated Goliath, we too can overcome our fears. Keep following the Spirit, take risks, and step into God-ordained moments. You will become more comfortable and pretty good at it.

How do I avoid being pushy?

If a person doesn't seem to be interested, then don't push it. We want to share the gospel, but that doesn't mean we have to beat them over the head with it.

Don't repeat yourself endlessly. Be patient with them and remind yourself that not every moment has to be an instant transformation.

Don't judge or insult people in your conversation.

Never compare religions and never make superior claims.

Never act proud or abnormal because you are set apart for Heaven.

Colossians 4:5-6, "Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person."

"Culture is changing: our
Call to witness is not."

How important is the role of prayer in Evangelism?

Prayer is essential for effectiveness in your Evangelism. When you witness, you plant the seeds of the Gospel but it is God who causes the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6-7). Hence, pray for growth. We pray because sharing the Gospel is spiritual warfare indeed. Our battle is not against flesh and blood but against the spiritual forces of darkness. (Ephesians 6:12)

What to Pray for?

- 1) Pray for more people to witness to others.
- 2) Pray for compassion for the lost.
- 3) Pray for boldness to share the Gospel.
- 4) Pray for God's influence over those who hear the Gospel.

“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!” (Isaiah 52:7)

Elements involved in Evangelism

- Work of the Spirit (God's role)
- Prayer
- Testimony or Story of your walk with God
- Our Character – our changed life must be reflected
- Continued learning of God's word will help you stay on course
- Evangelism is not the job of specialist only
- Convictions / motivations for sharing gospel

Top 5 stories to share with people

- 1) The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)
- 2) The Adulterous Woman (John 8:1-11)
- 3) The Samaritan Lady at the Well (John 4:1-40)
- 4) The Raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-44)
- 5) The Calming of Seas (Mark 4:35-40)

References

- 1) **Beyond Awkward** by Beau Crosetto
- 2) **Evangelism handbook** by Alvin Reid
- 3) **Systematic theology** by Wayne Grudem
- 4) **Deep & Wide** by Andy Stanley
- 5) **Vertical Church** by James Mc Donald

If you have any further questions, please email us at info@bethelag.in or walk into the church office for any counselling regarding this issue.