



## Middleburg Memos

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### III. What can we learn from the New Testament concept of church?

- A. The Bible provides a rich kaleidoscope of \_\_\_\_\_ about the \_\_\_\_\_ composed of around one hundred metaphors and statements. (*i.e. body of Christ, family of God, flock, bride of Christ, etc.*)
- B. The Greek word for church is \_\_\_\_\_. This generally means \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_. Literally, it refers to those who are \_\_\_\_\_.  
*This word is used 115 times in the New Testament. At least 92 times this word refers to a local congregation. The other references are to the church in general, or all believers throughout all time.*
- C. Remember, in the New Testament, “church” refers to \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_. **Ephesians 2:19-22**
- D. We know we are to \_\_\_\_\_ with other \_\_\_\_\_ (**Hebrews 10:23–25**), but why? *We’ve talked about praise and worship and offering ourselves as sacrifices – but can’t we do those things without church? Well... we must understand that much of the NT idea of “church” has nothing to do with us (as individuals). Rather, it has to do with the body as a whole! Consider 1 Corinthians 12:12-21.*

### IV. What can we learn from the gathered Christians in the New Testament?

- A. **Acts 5:42** – Part of the activity of the believers was \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus as the \_\_\_\_\_.

- B. **Acts 2:42-47** – Believers consistently gathered for \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.  
Remember the words of Jesus in **Matthew 21:13**.
- C. Believers gathered to \_\_\_\_\_.  
**Acts 4:34-35**
- D. Christians came together to practice the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.  
**Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 11; 2 Thessalonians 2:15**
- E. All believers are given at least one \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ in order to \_\_\_\_\_ God, \_\_\_\_\_ the body,  
\_\_\_\_\_ other believers, and \_\_\_\_\_ the Gospel  
to others. **Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 & 28-30;**  
**Ephesians 4:11**  
*These are the three major lists of gifts found in the NT. Each list is meant to be suggestive and illustrative of the types of gifts God gives. They are not necessarily exhaustive.*

#### V. **So, what is the bottom line?**

- A. When we think about why we come to church we should first ask – “What can I give?” rather than, “What can I get?”
- B. The biblical model for church is a local body of believers helping and encouraging one another, drawing close to the Lord Jesus Christ and striving to make Him known to the rest of the world.
- C. So, do you come to church for yourself, and your own benefit – Or do you come for God’s glory and the benefit of others?
- D. When you put God first and the needs of others before your own, then you will come to church with great expectancy – eager to see what God can and will do through your sacrificial life. In the process, He will teach you and give you all the spiritual nourishment you need.
- E. Remember, when sheep are hungry the shepherd can only take them to the pasture – He cannot force them to eat and he cannot eat on their behalf. Are you doing your part to be spiritually fed outside of the church? Only then will you be prepared to worship God in spirit and truth as you gather together with His children. **John 4:23**