Quick Bible References on the CHURCH

Worship

Whom do we worship?

God alone, John 20:24-29; Rev. 22:8, 9;

Not a **prophet**, Matt. 17:1-8; an **apostle**, Acts 10:25-26; 14:8-15; an **angel**, Rev. 22:8-9; **Jesus's mother**, Matt. 2:11; **images**, Ex. 20:1-5, 34:14; Isaiah 44:21; Psalm 97:7; Acts 17:22-31

Who is our mediator?

Jesus alone, 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 7:22-28; 1 John 2:1

How do we worship?

Praying – Acts 2:42, 4:23-31, and 12:5; 1 Timothy 2:1-6

Singing – Col. 3:16; Ephesians 5:19

Partaking of the **Lord's Supper** "on the first day of the week" with "the disciples" – Acts 20:7

Giving – 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8:1–9:15

Hearing the Word – Acts 2:42, and 20:7

How important is attendance?

Psalm 116:12-14 and 122:1; Heb. 2:10-13 and 10:22-25; 1 Cor. 12:12-27; Eph. 4:11-16

Jesus's example, Luke 4:16

Other Principles

"In **spirit** and in **truth**" in **no** certain **place**, John 4:23-24

"With the **spirit** and with the **understanding**," 1 Cor. 14:15

"Let all things be done for **edification**," 1 Cor. 14:26

"**Decently** and **in order**," 1 Cor. 14:40

Organization

Christ, the head – Ephesians 1:22-23

Elders and deacons – Phil. 1:1-2 (elder**s**, ***plural***; also Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5)

Qualifications: 1 Timothy 3; Titus 1

The work of elders – Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-4 (Cp. Psalm 23:4-6; John 10:7-15)

The authority of elders – Acts 11:27-30; 1 Timothy 5:17-20; Hebrews 13:17

Self-governing congregations – 1 Peter 5:2, "the flock … that is among" the elders (also Acts 20:28)

The work of the church

Preaching – Acts 2:40; 13:1-3; 20:7 (part of being the **"pillar and ground of the truth"**, 1 Timothy 3:15)

Praising God – Acts 2:47; Hebrews 2:10; 1 Peter 2:9-10; Ephesians 3:10-11

Edifying the saints – Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 14:26; Hebrews 10:24-25

Providing for the needs of the saints – Acts 2:44-45; 4:32 – 5:10; 6:1-6

The use of the collection (The church's treasury pays for the **work of the church**.)

Preaching – Including paying a **preacher's** expenses and salary, Philippians 4:15-16; 1 Cor. 9:1-14; 2 Cor. 11:8

Praising God – Things necessary to carry out our **assembling** and **worshiping**

Edifying the saints – Things necessary to carry out the **teaching** and **building up** of each other, including paying an *elder's* salary, 1 Timothy 5:17-18

Providing for the needs of the saints – Examples: Acts 11:27-30; Romans 15:26; 1 Corinthians 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8 – 9; and 1 Timothy 5:3-16, supporting widows who are "really" widows.

The works of the *individual* and the works of the *church* (See The Two Circles)

The **individual may** do certain works of the church (e.g., preaching, Acts 8:4, praying, and singing hymns, James 5:13), but **the church has no right to fill the role of the individual** (e.g., "the church must not be burdened," 1 Timothy 5:16).

The ***individual* has the burden** of "visiting the fatherless and widows" (James 1:26-27).

The individual has **no limits** on how to spend his funds (Matthew 5:42; Acts 5:4; Galatians 6:10).

Unauthorized practices (See The Two Circles)

"**Institutionalism**" (i.e., supporting institutions such as schools, hospitals, orphanages, social groups, etc. from the treasury). It is an **abuse of the offering**. These works belong to *individuals*.

"**The sponsoring church**" (i.e., one congregation paying the expenses of another such as rent, evangelism programs, etc., that are not benevolent needs). It is an **abuse of the organization** of the church; each congregation must manage its own affairs, 1 Peter 5:2.

"**The recreational gospel**" (i.e., using church premises for playing and eating). It is an **abuse of the work of the church and**, many times, **of the offering**. Romans 14:17. We meet for worship, then eat "from house to house," Acts 2:46. Errors are addressed in 1 Cor. 11:22, 34.

"**The social gospel**" (i.e., giving clothing, food, etc. to non-saints). It's an **abuse of the work of the church**, for it attracts people with something that is not the gospel. (Rom. 1:16; John 6:26-29). The church provides for *their* needs, but not for those of the world (Acts 2:44-45 with 3:1-6).