

**God's Plan for the Church**  
**The Importance of Church – Part 1**  
**Life Church St. Louis – February 5, 2017**  
**Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker**

*Matthew 16:18 (NIV2011) And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock [Peter's confession of faith] I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*

*Acts 2:41 (NIV2011) Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.*

*1 John 4:20-21 (NIV2011) Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.*

**1. You are \_\_\_\_\_ in the church**

*Acts 20:28 (NIV2011) Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.*

**1A. You are protected from \_\_\_\_\_**

*1 Corinthians 5:5 (NIV2011) hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.*

**1B. You are protected from \_\_\_\_\_**

*James 5:19-20 (NIV2011) My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.*

**2. You are \_\_\_\_\_ for in the church**

*Psalm 23:1-2 (NIV2011) The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,*

**2A. You are \_\_\_\_\_ God's Word**

*Colossians 3:16 (NIV) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.*

**2B. You benefit from \_\_\_\_\_**

*1 Corinthians 12:7 (NIV2011) Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.*

**3. You are \_\_\_\_\_ through the church**

*Psalm 23:3b (NIV2011) He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.*

**3A. You are \_\_\_\_\_ for**

*Ephesians 6:18 (NIV2011) And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.*

**3B. You are \_\_\_\_\_ for spiritual growth**

*Ephesians 4:15-16 (NIV2011) Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*

**Action Plan for This Week**

- Have a daily quiet time of Bible reading, prayer & writing.
  - Mon  Tue  Wed  Thu  Fri  Sat  Sun
- Review the verses around each passage in the outline.
- Invite your friends, relatives, workmates & neighbors to our Sunday service.

# God's Plan for the Church Study Guide

## *The Importance of Church – Part 1*

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Intro. How would you define church?

Why do you think that 73% of American adults claim to be Christians but only 31% attend church at least once a month?

What does Matthew 16:18 tell us about the nature of the church?

According to Acts 2:41, when were people added to the church?

Can a person love God and yet not be a part of a church family (1 John 4:20-21)?

1A. What is the responsibility of church leaders (Acts 20:28-29)?

1B. Why was putting an unrepentant man out of the church described as handing over to Satan (1 Corinthians 5:5)?

1C. How does the church protect a person from wandering from the truth (James 5:19-20)?

1D. How does the metaphor of a flock show how a person in the church is protected by God?

2A. How does God provide for His flock (Psalm 23:1-2)?

2B. How does the teaching of God's Word through the church provide for the believer (Colossians 3:16)?

2C. What is the benefit of spiritual gifts in the church for the believer (1 Corinthians 12:7)?

2D. How can a believer gain the greatest benefit from the blessings the church provides?

3A. How does being part of a church family help guide your life (Psalm 23:3)?

3B. How do the prayers of other believers help guide you (Ephesians 6:18)?

3C. What does it mean for a believer to be disciplined through the church (Ephesians 4:15-16, Matthew 28:18-20)?

3D. How does the life cycle of a sheep in a flock help you understand spiritual growth in the church?