

TRUTHS WE LIVE BY (7)

About the Church

Bruce Stabbert ■ Fellowship Bible Church

"We believe that the true Church is composed of all persons who exercise saving faith in Christ and who thus become spiritually baptized into Christ's Body. Each believer, being a priest before God, is gifted at salvation for a responsible role in the functioning of the Body. Only members of the true Church should be eligible for membership in the local church, those who profess personal faith in Christ and who demonstrated their faith by obedience in the matter of baptism and by a growing consistency in their walk with Christ. The local church is to function directly under the authority of Christ and His Word."

◆ What we believe

—What often guides our thoughts about what the church should be is simply _____.

—When the _____ has taken the place of the _____, then we have a problem.

1. "We believe that the true Church is composed of all persons who exercise saving faith in Christ and who thus become spiritually baptized into Christ's Body."

—The Church is something _____ organizes and He does this around _____ in His Son.

Matthew 16:18

—If you know Christ, you automatically become a _____ of His Church.

—Distinguish between the _____ Church and the _____ church.

—The Church is Christ's _____. This means:

- Christ is in charge, because He's the head.
- Everything you need as a church you have provided from Him.
- We were all designed to need each other.

Eph 4:16

2. "Each believer, being a priest before God, is gifted at salvation for a responsible role in the functioning of the Body."

—The doctrine of the _____ of all believers (1Pet 2:5):

- We come _____ to God without the necessity of some human _____.
- We have the privilege and responsibility of helping _____ into God's presence to enjoy His acceptance and blessing.

—God gives us spiritual _____ so we can fulfill this priesthood toward each other.

—Some gifts are evidently more _____; others are behind the _____.

1Cor 12:12-26

—Gifts are not given to make ministry _____, but to make it _____ (to make the _____ worth it).

3. "Only members of the true Church should be eligible for membership in the local church, those who profess personal faith in Christ and who demonstrated their faith by obedience in the matter of baptism and by a growing consistency in their walk with Christ.."

—Many claim to love the universal big C Church but they want _____ to do with the local small c church.

—Church people who _____ and find _____ in that growth are the ones in it for the _____, not the _____.

—The church is the place where you learn to love _____ people by demonstrating the way you have been _____ by God. Eph 4:32

—Five purposes: “Our purpose as a congregation is to help each other walk the amazing path we were made for...

- ◆ Created for God's pleasure (GLORIFYING)
- ◆ Designed for relationships (GATHERING)
- ◆ Destined to be like Jesus (GROWING)
- ◆ Shaped for service (GIFTING)
- ◆ Made for a mission (GOING)

—Membership is an extension of the principle of _____ . It can lead to church _____ . But even more it means we must never _____ .

4. “The local church is to function directly under the authority of Christ and His Word.”

—This is the _____ of the church.

Eph 2:20

—Some type of _____ leadership was most likely the practice of the early church.

◆ WHY we believe

—This is an extension of a _____ view of Christ.

—It demands also a _____ hold on things left open in the Bible.

◆ Why we BEHAVE

—Can we strive to be a better representative of who Christ is, while refusing to pretend that we are doing a great job at displaying His glory before a watching world?

◆ What YOU believe

—When God calls you a minister, are you willing to take up the task according to your gifts and stick by your brothers and sisters in the battle for truth and the glory of God?