

Sunday, May 18, 2025



Becoming A Healthy Church
Biblical Theology
Luke 24:44-49

Jesus is the Interpretive Framework for All of Scripture:

1. The _____:

2. The _____:

3. The _____:

4. The _____:

5. The _____:

6. The _____:

7. The _____:

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Study Guide

For the week of May 18, 2025

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

What are some reasons you have heard people give for not joining a church?

What difference do you think it makes whether a Christian is a member of a church?

Read **Ephesians 2:19-22**. List the different images and metaphors in these verses that Paul uses to describe the unity that Jews and Gentiles have in Christ.

What is the foundation Paul describes in **verse 20**? Why is this foundation essential for the life and health of the church?

In **verse 21** Paul describes the whole of God's people when he says that "the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord." This means that now, the entire people of God are the dwelling place of God, which he will perfectly and permanently indwell one day. Yet in **verse 22** Paul says "you also" – meaning the church at Ephesus – "are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit." This means that the local church is a joined together, built-together temple of God. All its members are joined together, interlocking with one another and with Christ the cornerstone. Do you think a Christian is living in line with this reality if he or she is not a member of a local church? Why or why not?

If you were talking to a Christian who thought that they didn't need to join a church, how could you use this passage to encourage them to become a member of a sound, gospel-preaching church?

In **Ephesians 2:22**, Paul is likely referring to both numerical and spiritual growth. People are becoming Christians, and everyone is growing in holiness and maturity. By what means does this growth take place? See also **Acts 2:41** and **Ephesians 4:15-16**.

Who builds the temple that is the church? In whom does He build it? For whom does He build it? Why should these last three points encourage Christians?

Read **Ephesians 2:21** and **1 Corinthians 3:16-17**. The church is a holy temple because God possesses it and because the Holy Spirit dwells in its members. How should the church's identity as God's holy temple impact:

How a church goes about receiving new members?

- Whether a church should seek to actively oversee the lives of its members?
- How a church should respond to a member who refuses to repent of sin?

Because the church is growing into a holy temple, the church is also called to grow in holiness (v. 21). How should this mandate for holiness impact:

- The things we discuss when we meet with other church members?
- How we listen to sermons?
- What we look for in the church's corporate gatherings?
- What we desire to get out of the church's corporate gatherings?
- How we respond when others sin against us?

What personal needs has the Holy Spirit exposed during this study? How can we pray with you about those needs?

**Consider memorizing:
Ephesians 2:19-22.**

Pastor Jake Presley