1 – **Going To Church**

Matthew 16:18

2 - **“Going to church…”**

* We need to use Bible terms and words in Bible ways.
* What does this phrase indicate about our perception of the church?
* Is it just “a place we go to”?

3 - **What Is The Church?**

* Jesus promised He would ***“build His church”***?(Matthew 16:18; emphasize singular)
* What would He build? Something physical?   
  Or spiritual?

4 - **What Is The Church?**

* By definition: “***church***” is from the Greek word “ekklesia” which means **“the called out”** (Strong) and represents “the whole company of the redeemed” (Vine).
* Used in the secular sense of **any public assembly**, lawful or otherwise. (Acts 19:32, 39, 41)
* **Spiritually**, used to represent **all the souls of all who are added by the Lord to the body of Christ**.   
  (Acts 2:41, 47)
* Not an afterthought… **eternally planned**.   
  (Ephesians 3:10-11)

5 - **What Is The Church?**

**1 - Members of the Body of Christ**. (Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:23; Colossians 1:18, 24)

* Are we **active, working, contributing members**?   
  (1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Romans 12:4ff)
* **Christ alone must be our head**! (Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:15; Colossians 2:19)

6 - **What Is The Church?**

**2 - The Bride of Christ**. (Ephesians 5:22-33; Revelation 19:7; 21:2, 9)

* **Have we made ourselves ready** and addressed any ***“spot or wrinkle”***? (2 Peter 3:14-15)
* **Have we been faithful to Him as His bride?**

7 - **What Is The Church?**

**3 - Citizens in the Kingdom. (Daniel 2:44; Isaiah 9:6-7; Acts 8:12; 19:8; Colossians 1:13; John 18:36)**

* **The kingdom that Jesus will deliver to the Father.   
  (1 Corinthians 15:24)**
* **Is He our King with all rule, authority and honor? (Colossians 2:10)**
* **Where is our citizenship? (Philippians 3:20)**

8 - **What Is The Church?**

**4 - Members in the family of Christ**. (Ephesians 2:19; 1 Timothy 3:15; 1 Peter 1:17;   
Romans 8:14-17)

* **Do we honor our Father?** (Malachi 1:6-8)
* **Are we obedient**?

9 - **Who Is Added To The Church?**

**The humble (convicted) sinner in need of forgiveness**. (Luke 18:9-17; Acts 2:37-38; 1 Cor. 6:9-11)

**The meek and gentle soul who doesn’t argue with Lord’s conditions for grace** (2 Kings 5:13; John 9:7; James 1:21) **but by faith does what God asks**. (Romans 1:16-17)

**The penitent soul willing to turn from darkness to light**. (Acts 2:38; 17:30; Romans 2:4)

**Those who become new creatures in Christ**.   
(2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 6:3-4; Acts 2:38)

10 - **Who Adds To The Church?**

**The Lord adds souls to the church.   
(Acts 2:41, 47)**

**“Joining the church”? - What did Saul do in   
Acts 9:26 when he “tried to join the disciples”?**

**“Gluing” ourselves to a local church to work, serve and worship together.**

**We must choose to join ourselves to other Christians whom the Lord has added to His body.**

11 – **Has The Lord Added You To His Church?**

**Are you convicted of your sin?**

**Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the Son of God?**

**Will you repent of your sins?**

**Will you begin a new life by being buried with Him in baptism?**