

Session 7: The Nature of the Church

(First Pause)

Answer the following question:

What is church?

Answers will vary

(Second Pause)

Read Ephesians 2:11-22

What metaphors does Paul use to describe the church?

Citizenship and a Building

(Third Pause)

Read Ephesians 2:20-22

What characteristics of a building are applied to the church in this passage?

Foundation, Cornerstone, being built/growing, serving a purpose

(Fourth Pause)

Read Ephesians 2:22

What is the purpose of the Church?

To be a dwelling place for God

(Final Section)

Read 1 Corinthians 12:11-30 and Ephesians 4:15-16

“I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* Church, the communion of saints.”

– The Apostle’s Creed

“We believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic Church.”

– The Nicene Creed

*The word catholic refers to the universal church, not the Roman Catholic church.

How does the existence of one universal church/body of Christ change the way you view your church. What about other churches/denominations?

Answers will vary

Therefore, how should we treat those from other biblical churches/denominations?

Answers will vary

How have you seen aspects of what we’ve discussed in your own church?

Answers will vary

Where could your church improve? Could you help it to do so?

Answers will vary

How should this reflect in your attitude to and behaviour at church?

Answers will vary