

## ELEVATE FOUNDATIONS, Session 4 – The Church

Review:

- What was the first foundation? (*prayer*)
- What was the next foundation? (*the Bible*)
- **You will NOT stand strong as a Christian without regularly spending time in PRAYER and BIBLE reading.**
- Tonight: The **CHURCH**.

### 1. What is the Church?

- Church = *ekklesia* = (*called out ones*)
- Definition: A *local, visible*, body of baptized *believers*, which meets together *regularly* under the leadership of a *pastor*, to proclaim the *Gospel*, make *disciples*, and carry out the two *ordinances* (baptism and the Lord's Supper).

### 2. Why Does the Church Matter?

- Matt. 16:18 – What did Jesus promise? (*to build His church; the church **belongs** to Jesus and **will** endure*)
- Eph. 5:23 – What is Christ's relationship to the church? (*He's the head of the church*)
- Eph. 5:24 – What is the church's relationship to Christ? (*subject to Christ, submissive to Him*)
- Eph. 5:25 – What did Christ do for the church? (*loved it and gave Himself for it*)

- Eph. 5:26 – What is He doing for His church now? (*sanctifying and cleansing it with His Word*)
- Eph. 5:27 – What is His ultimate goal for His church? (*to make it glorious, spotless, and holy*)
- Heb. 10:23 – Hold onto what you believe.
- Heb. 10:24 – *Encourage* fellow believers.
- Heb. 10:25 – Don't *forsake* church attendance.
- Heb. 10:26-29 – Consequences of forsaking church.

### 3. What's My Role in the Church? 1 Cor. 12:12-21

- **Join** the church.
- **Attend** your church.
- **Learn** from your church.
- **Serve** your church.

### Personal Questions:

- Are you qualified to be a member of a church?
- Are you a member of a local church?
- Why does church membership matter?
- Are you faithfully attending your church?
- Are you serving God and others in your church?
- What are ways you can serve?