

# The Corporate Functions of the Church

## Session 1

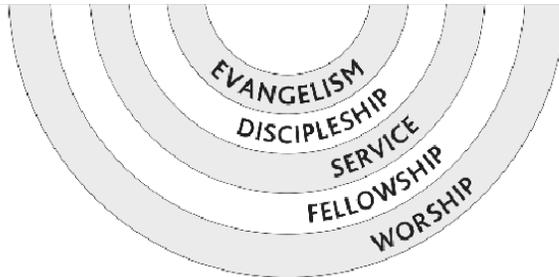
### WHAT ARE CORPORATE FUNCTIONS OF A CHURCH?



Discuss the following questions:

- What are the essential functions that a “church” must perform?
- How many believers does it take to practice a corporate church function?
- How do we fulfill the command of Hebrews 10: 24-25 if a local church does not exist?

### The Five Biblical Corporate Functions of the Local Church



FIVE  
FUNCTIONS

#### 1. WORSHIP

In worship, the church centers its attention upon who God is, what He has done, and what He is saying, and responds with praise, thanksgiving, confession.

- \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ of sins
- \_\_\_\_\_ (the ministry of the Word)
- \_\_\_\_\_
- The Lord's \_\_\_\_\_
- Giving an \_\_\_\_\_



## 2. FELLOWSHIP

God's people live together in community, building each other up (edification) using all the gifts that God has given the church "for training of the saints in the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4: 12).



- \_\_\_\_\_ one another (John 13:34; 15:12,17)
- Be \_\_\_\_\_ to one another (Romans 12:10)
- \_\_\_\_\_ one another (Romans 15:7)
- \_\_\_\_\_ one another (Romans 15:14)
- \_\_\_\_\_ for one another (Philippians 4:8)

## 3. SERVICE

The church carries out acts of Christian love and compassion for believers and non-Christians.

The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats - Matthew 25:31-46

## 4. DISCIPLESHIP

The church helps people to know God and His will more clearly and equips them to follow Him in all aspects of life.

Discipleship concentrates on the development of believers' \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ as they grow in the understanding of the content of the gospel.

## 5. EVANGELISM

In evangelism, the church corporately fulfills the Lord's command to "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28: 18-20).

Read the following statement by theologian Millard Erickson. Invite participants to share their reaction to it and their ideas about the implications of this statement.

"If the church is to be faithful to its Lord and bring joy to his heart, it must be engaged in bringing the gospel to all people. This involves going to people whom we like and people whom we may by nature tend to dislike. It extends to those who are unlike us. And it goes beyond our immediate sphere of contact and influence. In a very real

sense local evangelism, church extension or church planting, and world missions are all the same thing. The only difference lies in the length of the radius. The church must work in all of these areas. If it does not, it will become spiritually ill, for it will be attempting to function in a way its Lord never intended.”<sup>1</sup>

### **Action Plan for Module 11**

With the members of your church planting team, decide when you will begin to hold corporate gatherings – if you have not already started. Determine how these gatherings will express the five functions of a church.

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<sup>1</sup> Millard Erickson, *Christian Theology*. (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1983).