



The Soul of TLC

What is *church* supposed to be?

Jesus: *"...I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it."* Matt. 16:18

What kind of church did *Jesus* come to build?

1. _____: Meets my need for _____
"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." Mt. 22:37
2. _____: Meets my need for _____
"Love your neighbor as yourself." Mt. 22:38
3. _____: Meets my need for _____
"...go and make disciples of all nations..." Mt. 28:19a
4. _____: Meets my need for _____
"...baptizing them..." Mt. 28:19b
5. _____: Meets my need for _____
"...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." Mt. 28:20

What did the *early church* do? (Acts 2:42-47)

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching..." (_____)

How can I do this?

"...and to the fellowship. Every day they continued to meet together" (_____)

How can I do this?

"Everyone was filled with awe... praising God..." (_____)

How can I do this?

"...they gave to anyone as he had need." (_____)

How can I do this?

"the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." (_____)

How can I do this?

Daily Meditations

Take a few minutes every day to read Scripture, pray, and answer some thought-provoking questions pertaining to this week's topic.

This week's memory verses: *"In Christ the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit."* Eph. 2:21-22

Monday: Worship

Read Ps. 46:10, Isa. 40:30-31 & Rom. 12:1. Worship encompasses more than just singing; it is a lifestyle that focuses attention on God.

How does worship give you power to live on?

How can you make worship part of your daily life?

Read Ps. 13:6, 59:16 & 147:7. At first, you may feel self-conscious about singing to God, but as your focus shifts from how you feel to God you will begin to find yourself thankful for the opportunity to sing to God. Take some time to write down the words you want to sing to God.

TLC message by Pastor René Schlaepfer, March 16 & 17, 2002

Spend time this morning singing to God, telling Him you love Him. Thank God today that He gives you power to live on. Ask Him to help you focus on Him and worship Him today.

Tuesday: Fellowship

Read Eccl. 4:9-10a & Heb. 10:24-25. From the beginning God knew that we needed companionship. The Church helps to meet this need.

How have you seen the truth of these verses in your life? What are the advantages of fellowship?

Take a look at your life. What are the factors in your life that conspire against closer friendships?

Are you close to anyone?

Thank God today that He meets our need for companionship. Ask Him to lead you into relationships that will be of mutual benefit and will strengthen your relationship with God.

Wednesday: Discipleship

Read Colossians 3:13-17. In these verses we see at least three purposes of the church: worship, fellowship, and discipleship. But I want to focus on discipleship. Are you in a relationship right now where you are being taught and are teaching?

What are we to do with the word of God, according to these verses?

How do you do that?

What discipleship opportunities-- chances to dig deeper into the word in a more accountable relationship than just the large services-- can you take advantage of?

Thank God today that He has given you His principles to live by. Ask Him to show you how you can both be disciplined-- and disciple others.

Thursday: Ministry

Read Romans 12:4-8. How does Paul's description of the church as the Body of Christ help you understand how important you are to TLC?

Why are we sometimes tempted to think that we are really not that important to the health of our church?

What would Paul say to you if you said, "I'm just not that crucial to God's work at TLC?"

What ways can you imagine yourself contributing to the health of the whole body?

Thank God that you are part of the Body of Christ! Ask Him to show you areas that you can use your gifts to serve others and for a willingness to that.

Friday: Outreach

Read Acts 1:8. Part of God's plan for your life includes you sharing your faith with people around you. There is no one set "technique" for this, it depends on your personality and how you relate to others. What prevents you from sharing your faith?

Think back to people who shared their faith with you before you were a Christian. What made an impact on you?

Recall a time when you did share your faith with someone. What motivated you to share your faith? How did it encourage your faith?

Thank God today that He includes you in His plan for the world. Pray for grace and boldness in sharing the Good News of God's transforming grace with others in your life. Pray specifically for three people you know - that God would grant you opportunities to share.

Saturday

Review your notes, finishing any devotions you may have missed and polish up the memory verse for the week. Please pray for the services this weekend, that there would be at least one person in each service who makes a commitment to follow Christ.