

### 1) What is the church? (Matt. 16:18, Acts 2:42-47)

The church is the community of regenerate believers who confess Jesus Christ as Lord.

What are your earliest memories of church?

Why are some people suspicious of church? Are you? Why?

Is it possible to love Jesus and not love the church? Why or why not?

The Greek word *ekklesia* is translated *church* 115 times in the New Testament. It means, “called out from” and “assemble to”. What are Christians called out from? What are Christians assembled to?

Read Acts 2:42. List the things the early church members were devoted to. What is the difference between “*benefitting from the church*”, “*participating in the church*”, and “*devoted to the church*”.

Jesus promised to build his church. Is he using you to build his church? How? What else are you building that might prevent you from playing a greater role in building the church.

### 2) What is the mission of the church? (Matt. 28:18-20, Acts 1:8)

The church exists for the unique purpose of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the glory of God.

What “good things” does the church sometime get involved in that can keep it from the “main thing” Jesus established it to accomplish?

Have you taken the ALS ice-bucket challenge? Did you make a donation? What do you think has made this movement so viral? Are you as willing to give yourself to the finding a cure for sin as you are finding a cure for ALS?

Whose mission is greater: the ALS Foundation or the Church? Which received more of your attention this week?

### 3) What are the marks of a healthy church?

#### 1) Regenerate membership (Acts 2:36-41)

How is it possible for a person to be a member of a local church without being regenerate? What must a church do to try to ensure its membership is regenerate? What are the dangers if it doesn't?

#### 2) Qualified leadership (Acts 14:21-23)

What qualifies a person for leadership in a church? Are you qualified? What must you do to get qualified?

Are you faithful, available, and teachable?

#### 3) Biblical authority (Acts 2:42)

What happens to a church when it departs from biblical authority?

#### 4) Vertical worship (Eph. 3:20-21)

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Describe what is going on in your heart during the first 5 minutes of a worship service at Harvest? How often is your heart (and your body) in the right place when the worship service starts? (Come on people! Get to church on time!)

5) Disciplined holiness (Gal. 6:1)

What role do the ministries of Harvest play in your personal holiness?

6) Intentional alignment (Acts 20:28-30)

What must a church do to ensure that it's ministry offering are not silo ministries?

7) Spirit-empowered service (1Cor. 12:14-26)

If you had to pick a body part to describe your involvement in the ministries of the church what part describes you best? Why

8) Gospel-driven evangelism. (Acts 20:24-27)

Who do you know needs the gospel? Have you invited them to Harvest?

9) Loving compassion (great commandment) (Gal. 6:10)

What are you doing to ease the suffering in those outside of the church?

10) Dependent Prayer (Acts 6:4)

Would you commit to pray everyday for the ministries of Harvest Bible Chapel Granger?

**Additional Scripture**

- Acts 20:28
- Ephesians 1:22
- Ephesians 4:4-14
- Ephesians 5:25
- Colossians 2:18-19
- Revelation 3:14-22