

What Christians Believe

Topic 5: The Church

Reading: Ephesians 4:1-16

(1) Consequences of conversion

- Reconciliation to God
- Reconciliation to one another

(2) Corporateness of Christianity

- The Church
- The local church

(3) Purpose of the church

- God's new society in the world, revealing God's ultimate purposes to the world (Eph.1:10, 3:10)
- Therefore, when people who aren't Christians come into contact with a church they *should* encounter a different world
 - not different for the *wrong* reasons
 - but different for the *right* reasons

(4) Astonishing privileges of belonging to a living church

(5) Serious responsibilities of belonging to a living church

- Unity (Eph.4:1-6)
- Maturity (Eph.4:7-16)
- Purity (Eph.4:17-6:9)
- Spiritual warfare (6:10-20)