



# GATHERED

*The Empowered Presence of God's People*

## **STUDENT GUIDE**

### **SESSION SIX: The Members of the Church**

*A Study on the Church by*



**SMYRNAFIRST**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

# *Session Six*

## The Members of the Church

The church isn't a place, but a people. As such, it is the members of the church that make her what she is. In this week's lesson, we will explore what it means to be a member of the church and how this membership is expressed.

Take a few days this week to sit down with your Bible and a pen so that you can read and study God's Word in a personal way so that you can live it out in the community of saints to which he has given you.

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### DAY 1

Read the following passages and make several observations about the location and type of churches mentioned: Romans 16:3-5; 1 Corinthians 16:19; Colossians 4:15; Philemon 2; 2 Corinthians 8:1; Galatians 1:2.

Are specific churches mentioned in the above verses? Why does the Bible speak of the church in the New Testament as local and regional?

Read Matthew 25:31-46. Does God see the church differently than we do? What is the obvious difference between the two groups?

In 2 Timothy 3:1-5, Timothy is warned against a certain kind of person. What does Paul mean by "a form of godliness"? Why is such a person so dangerous?

### DAY 2

Read Matthew 7:13-23. Two types of people are described in these verses. Make two columns, one for each type of person, and write in each column all that corresponds.

What is the difference in the two gates in verses 13-14? What does it infer for the gates to be narrow and wide?

In verses 15-20, Jesus warns against false prophets. What comparison is made to them? How can someone discern a false prophet from a true one? Why is it necessary to tell the difference?

What problem is presented in verses 20-23? Why did people in these verses think they were safe? Why couldn't their work make them acceptable to God? What is their reward?

## **DAY 3**

There are three major categories to the "one another" commands in Scripture. Read the following verses and then write down in your own words the three categories: Mark 9:50; Romans 12:6; I Peter 1:22; I John 3:11; Ephesians 5:21; Philippians 2:3.

How well does the church exhibit these commands? Give concrete examples of how the church obeys these commands in your local church. Give concrete examples of how the church fails to obey. Would you say obedience or disobedience is characteristic of how the world sees the church? Explain why you think so.

Ephesians 4:25 and Colossians 3:9 are two sides of the same coin. What do these verses reveal about the way we speak to one another? In what contexts are these commands important to the church?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11. Write down a specific way you can obey this command this week. Show it to a trusted friend and ask them to do the same, then hold each other accountable to following through with your plan.



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## The Members of the Church

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II. The Regenerate Church

III. The One-Another Church

Conclusion