

Introduction:

Today we will conclude our look at *the Birth of the Church*.

Things we will look at in this lesson:

The Biblical Pattern of a Healthy Church

The Biblical Pattern of a Healthy Church:

01. What is “repentance”?

02. How can we define “baptism”?

03. What is the significance behind being baptized in Jesus’ name?

04. In what two ways does the Holy Spirit lead us?

Article 1)

Teachings of the Apostles:

(1) The Scriptures are the inspired words of God, without any errors. Acts 1:16; 4:25; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:20–21

(2) There is one true God. He exists as a Trinity of three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Matt. 28:19; John 14:16–17; Acts 17:24–31; 2 Cor. 13:14

(3) All humans, except Jesus Christ, have sinned. Acts 22:14; Rom. 3:23; Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 2:22

(4) Salvation is available only through Jesus Christ. He shed His blood on the cross as God's Lamb, to redeem us from our sins. To be saved from sin and judgment, a person must repent, and trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord. Acts 2:38; 4:12; 10:43; 13:38–39; 26:15–18; Eph. 1:7; Rev. 5:6–10

(5) All who receive Jesus as Savior must be baptized in water. Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 8:12–13, 36–38; 9:18; 10:47–48; 19:5; 22:16

(6) The Lord's Supper reminds believers of the Lord's death and return. Matt. 26:26–29; Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:23–26

(7) The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a gift the Father wants to give each believer, after being born again. This gift brings power to witness, serve Christ, and live above sin. Acts 2:4; 10:45–46; 11:15–17; 19:1–7

(8) Miracles, signs, wonders, healings, speaking in tongues, and other spiritual gifts are still active in the church until Jesus Christ returns. Acts 3:1–10; 4:30; 5:15; 6:8; 8:13; 12:1–17; 15:12; 19:11; 28:1–9; Rom. 1:11; 1 Cor. 1:7; 12:1–14:40; 1 Thess. 5:19–20; 2 Tim. 1:6; Heb. 2:4; James 5:14–16

(9) God requires His children to live holy lives. This is possible as we choose to walk in the Spirit. Acts 5:1–11; Rom. 8:1–2, 13; 12:1–2; 1 Cor. 6:9–11; Gal. 5:19–21; Titus 2:11–14; Heb. 12:14; 1 Pet. 1:15–16; Rev. 3:4–6

(10) The church is the spiritual family of God. It is a fellowship based on the blood of Jesus and created by the Holy Spirit. The church serves in three directions. She evangelizes outward to the lost. She worships upward to God. She ministers inward to build up her members. All the ministry of the church depends on prayer and the Holy Spirit. Matt. 28:18–19; Acts 2:38–39, 47; 13:47; Rom. 12:1; 1 Cor. 14:12; 2 Cor. 5:11; Eph. 4:29; 1 Thess. 5:11; Heb. 13:15; Jude 20

Article 1) continued...

(11) Jesus rose victorious over death. He ascended to the right hand of the Father. He will return to reward believers. They will be with Christ forever. Acts 1:1–11; 2:20; 3:20–21; 23:6; 24:21–25; 26:8; 1 Cor. 15:51–52; 1 Thess. 4:16–17; Titus 2:13

(12) Jesus will conquer Satan, the Antichrist, and evil. He will judge the disobedient. They will suffer in the lake of fire forever. Matt. 8:12; 13:49–50; 25:31–46; 2 Thess. 2:1–12; Rev. 14:11; 20:10–14

05. What does God intend his church to do?

06. What do the bread and wine represent?

07. What was crucial to the life of the early church and is still as vital today?

Figure 1)

The early church was a praying church.	
When did the first believers pray?	Acts
They prayed as they waited to be filled with the Spirit.	1:14
They prayed as they chose an apostle to replace Judas.	1:24
They prayed as a way of life.	2:42
They prayed on the way to the prayer meeting.	3:1
They prayed when they were threatened and persecuted.	4:24–31
They prayed for those who served the tables.	6:6
They prayed when they were dying.	7:59
They prayed for new believers to be filled with the Spirit.	8:15; 9:17–19; 19:6
They prayed before eating.	10:9
They prayed when believers were locked in prison.	12:5
They prayed for their missionaries.	13:3
They prayed when they chose church leaders.	14:23
They prayed when they were bleeding in prison.	16:25
They prayed when they said good-bye to friends.	20:36
They prayed for the sick to be healed.	28:8

08. Why did God do miracles through the apostles?

09. What is the church to do in terms of generosity?

10. What did the early church make a priority?

11. What should the church strive for whenever possible?

12. According to Romans 12:18 who should we live at peace with?

13. What is a natural part of a spiritually healthy church?
