

Which Church?



Week Twelve

inTro



Read This Week's Passage:
Ephesians 4:11–16

DIGITAL CHURCH

With the increasing prevalence of digital worship services and sermons, the temptation to stay home for church is getting harder to resist, especially for those who have younger children, difficult-to-awaken family members (or yourself!), or high-intensity schedules through the week. Whereas societies in the past were based on small communities, these building blocks are slowly eroding away, at least their pew version of them. Ironically, with the rise of megacities and the aggregation of people, we are more isolated than ever before. Through digital means, we can choose our spiritual communities and forms of worship based on our personal taste. Though there are clear benefits to the digitalization of worship, one must clearly compare the practice with biblical principles and use the best of both worlds to develop our spiritual relationships further.

Though we have digital communities, they are customizable and can be turned on or off at any time. Though we have online churches, they are now competing in the marketplace of other venues. Though we have streaming sermons, they are packaged, labeled, advertised, and billed amidst a plethora of other forms of spoken word. These resources are beneficial and not to be seen as the result of technology's malevolence. Rather, this shift brings an opportunity to reassess our understanding of worship altogether.

In the digital age, why does one even attend church? How does one choose a church? Is the pew preferable to the mouse? What is God's will concerning our interaction with church? And why is church important for our spirituality? These are the questions that will be addressed in this lesson.



inScribe

Write out Ephesians 4:11–16 from the translation of your choice. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, outline, or mind map the chapter.



Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you



Draw **Arrows** to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?



Memorize your favorite verse in Ephesians 4:11–16. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

What further horizontal principles of church gatherings are found in Ephesians 4:11–16?



Read more at www.inverseible.org/will12-3



After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?



What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?



Read more at
www.inverseible.org/will12-4



What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Acts 2:42-47

Matthew 28:18-20

Colossians 3:12-17

1 Thessalonians 5:11-15



What other verses/promises come to mind when thinking about church membership and attendance?

Review your memorized verse from Ephesians 4:11-16.



Where is Jesus in the
midst of the prophecies of
Ephesians 4:11-16?



Where is Jesus most tangible in
your worship services?

What does He say to you through
your church experience?

After this week's study, how do
you see Jesus differently or see
Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to
seeing Jesus in this way?



Read more at
www.inverseible.org/will12-6



Review the memory verse.
How does it apply to your
life this week?



After this week's study of the
chapter, what are personal
applications you are
convicted of in your life?

How can you improve and
contribute to your local
church more?

A large grid of small dots for writing answers to the reflection questions.



Read more inSight from the
Spirit of Prophecy at
www.inverseible.org/will12-7



Share insights from this week's memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.



What does a horizontally unbalanced church look like? What does a vertically unbalanced church look like? Which is your church?

To attract more attendees, how are some churches sacrificing biblical principles? To project faithfulness, how are some churches sacrificing the appeal, charm, and invitation of Christ to people?

Why do you go to your church? If you don't go, why not—seriously?

Which of the five elements are strong in your worship service? Which of them are weakest? Do you experience Christ as Lord, King, Savior, and God in your worship service?

How are you trained more effectively as a disciple of Christ through your local church?