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Doctrine of the Church and What It Does

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Doctrine of the Church and What It Does

The doctrine of the church and what it does, as depicted in the Bible, influences the Christian's life and ministry. The Bible portrays the church in multiple pictures or images" (Morgan, 453). the church is viewed as the bride of Christ, a unified body, a sanctified and universal entity, and an apostolic messenger of the gospel (Shatzer, "What the Church Is"). Similarly, ¹the church does evangelism, social justice, edification, worship, baptism, and the Lord's Supper (Shatzer, "What the Church Does"). Understanding these aspects of the church influences the Christian life and ministry. The church as the bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:22) influences a sense of belonging and intimate connection to Christ, motivating Christians to serve the church with dedication and love. Christians in the church consider themselves as people of God (2 Corinthians 6:16), worshiping in the temple of the holy spirit (Acts 4:32). This sense of holiness shapes ethical conduct among Christians and guides ministries toward fostering spiritual growth, sanctification in Christ, and holiness.

The church's universal nature (Acts 1:8) influences outreach and inclusivity, while its apostolic foundation, grounded in Jesus' teachings, guides the interpretation of gospel and theological discourse (Matthew 28:20). What the church does also influences the Christian life and ministry. Evangelism, fueled by love, fuels ministries that share the gospel, reach out to touch lives and hearts, and engage in mission work (Mark 16:15). The social justice role of the church inspires Christian ministries that advocate for the oppressed and equality. Similarly, the worship role influences Christian music, praise, and prayers, which are considered essential to deepen our relationship with God and Christ. The churches today are the holy places where people go to pray, confess their sins, and seek forgiveness from God. Christians have been influenced to view the church as a holy place for baptism and sharing the Lord's supper. These

are important practices for spiritual transformation, enhancing the Christian life in Christ, and building unity within the community (Matthew 28:19).

References

Morgan, C. W., & Peterson, R. A. (2020). *Christian Theology: The Biblical Story and Our Faith*.

B&H Publishing Group.

Shatzer, "What the Church Is"

Shatzer, "What the Church Does"

Acts 4:32

Matthew 28:20

Acts 1:8

Ephesians 5:22

2 Corinthians 6:16

Mark 16:15

Matthew 28:19

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PAGE 3

PAGE 4
