

The Character of the Church

Study Guide

4. How are these side effects similar to the behavior of the Church today?

5. Define “practical amnesia.”

6. What was the first thing we need to know about the Church if we’re going to stop living like we have practical amnesia?

7. What passage of Scripture gives us the answer?

8. The first problem we have is we don’t say the Church is the Body of Christ, we say the Church is a what?

9. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

10. What were the three examples Pastor Billy gave showing how we repeat what others say and do?

11. What was the danger of this type of behavior?

12. What were some of the false beliefs of the Church today that Pastor Billy mentioned and what do you think about it?

13. The second problem we have is we don't say the Church is the Body of Christ, we say the Church is a what?

14. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

15. What was the first reason why we commit this error?

16. How does society get us to repeat this error?

17. What was the second reason why we commit this error?

18. How does society get us to repeat this error?

19. What were some of the false behaviors of the Church today that Pastor Billy mentioned and what do you think about it?

20. How would you describe the Church service you attend now?

21. Complete the closing statement made by Pastor Billy, "If you can't stop playing Church instead of being the Church, then maybe it's time you _____
_____."

Chapter Two

A Body of Brides *(Book Only – Bonus Material)*

Study

1. What was wrong with the Pastoral Search Committee criteria?
2. Who did they pick for “their guy”?
3. How is this behavior similar to Churches today?

10. What is the second phase of a Jewish Marriage Ceremony?

11. What Scriptures parallel this marriage phase to you and I the Bride of Christ?

12. What is the third phase of a Jewish Marriage Ceremony?

13. What Scriptures parallel this marriage phase to you and I the Bride of Christ?

14. What is the fourth phase of a Jewish Marriage Ceremony?

15. What Scriptures parallel this marriage phase to you and I the Bride of Christ?

16. What is the fifth phase of a Jewish Marriage Ceremony?

17. What Scriptures parallel this marriage phase to you and I the Bride of Christ?

18. What is the sixth phase of a Jewish Marriage Ceremony?

19. What Scriptures parallel this marriage phase to you and I the Bride of Christ?

20. What is the seventh phase of a Jewish Marriage Ceremony?

21. What Scriptures parallel this marriage phase to you and I the Bride of Christ?

22. What did Jesus call the “religious” Pharisees at His First Coming in Matthew Chapter 23?

23. The second reason we think we have a religion with Christ instead of a relationship is because of what?

24. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

25. What is the main reason we treat Jesus' work on the cross like a religion?

26. What holidays do we do this to?

27. Based on your current behavior and the manner in which you celebrate Christian holidays, are you driving people "to" Jesus Christ or "away" from Him?

28. What is the solution to fixing this detrimental behavior?

29. Complete the closing statement made by Pastor Billy, "If you can't stop playing Church instead of being the Church, then maybe it's time you _____
_____."

Chapter Three

A Body of One

Study

1. Who were Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker?
2. What was some of the detrimental behavior mentioned that they committed?
3. Why was their behavior called, “the greatest scab and cancer on the face of Christianity in two thousand years of Church History?”

4. How is their detrimental behavior similar to the behavior of the Church today?

5. What was the third thing we need to know about the Church if we're going to stop living like we have practical amnesia?

6. What passage of Scripture gives us the answer?

7. The first reason we behave so divisive in the Church is because of what?

8. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

9. The second reason we behave so divisive in the Church is because of what?

10. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

11. What was so amazing about the Deacon's behavior?

12. How is the Church today not reflecting this behavior?

13. The third reason we behave so divisive in the Church is because of what?

14. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

15. What was so amazing about the Old Hillbilly Preacher's behavior?

16. How is the Church today not reflecting this behavior?

17. What is the damage caused by not reflecting this behavior?

18. Based on your current behavior and the manner in which you interact with the Church, are you driving people “to” Jesus Christ or “away” from Him?

19. What is the solution to fixing this detrimental behavior?

20. Complete the closing statement made by Pastor Billy, “If you can’t stop playing Church instead of being the Church, then maybe it’s time you _____.”

10. Describe what God did through Paul and Silas's troubles.

11. How is God doing great things through your troubles?

12. Are you currently giving others the impression that the Church is a Body of Hope or a Body of Despair?

13. The second reason we look so hopeless in the Church is because we've forgotten what?

14. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

15. Why did people mentioned in that town in Maine halt all repairs and improvements in the town and on their homes?

16. How are you currently living your life in light of the Biblical truth that one day all that we have will perish?

17. What would God say about your current behavior?

18. Are you currently giving others the impression that the Church is a Body of Hope or a Body of Dopes?

19. The third reason we look so hopeless in the Church is because we've forgotten what?

20. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

21. How many sins does Jesus forgive us?

22. How long does Jesus serve in this position as High Priest for us?

23. Is your Church a forgiving Church? Why or why not?

24. If a Church or individual Christian refuses to forgive, how is this being hypocritical?

25. Who do you need to forgive right now?

26. Complete the closing statement made by Pastor Billy, "If you can't stop playing Church instead of being the Church, then maybe it's time you _____."

10. Are you currently giving others the impression that the Church is a Body of Joy or a Body of Depression?

11. The second reason we look so joyless in the Church is because of what?

12. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

13. Share various testimonies of how God has been faithful to provide and care for you over the years as a Christian.

14.How is your current level of thankfulness?

15.What's the answer to getting it back?

16.Discuss the different examples Pastor Billy gave about putting things into perspective and share how this helps maintain an attitude of thankfulness.

17. Are you currently giving others the impression that the Church is a Body of Joy or a Body of Whiners?

18. The third reason we look so joyless in the Church is because of what?

19. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

20. Why were so many people getting saved in the early Church?

21. Do you have an attitude of celebration when you attend Church services?

22. Do you have an attitude of celebration wherever you go?

23.If not, what is the answer to getting it back?

24.Are you currently giving others the impression that the Church is a Body of Joy or a Body of Dead People?

25.How will you help “raise the dead” this week?

3. How is this outrageous behavior similar to the Church today?

4. What was the sixth thing we need to know about the Church if we're going to stop living like we have practical amnesia?

5. What passage of Scripture gives us the answer?

6. How do we show others that we are true disciples of Christ?

7. Based on your current level of love towards others, are you giving them the impression that you're a true or fake disciple?

8. The first reason we look so loveless in the Church is because of what?

9. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

10. What kind of religion does God consider pure and faultless?

11. If Jesus loved these people while He was on earth, what should we His followers be doing?

12. What are some of the many excuses people give as to why they refuse to love these people?

13. Do you think any of these will fly with God?

14. Are you currently giving others the impression that the Church is a Body of Love or a Body of Greed?

15. The second reason we look so loveless in the Church is because of what?

16. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

17. If Jesus loved these people while He was on earth, what should we His followers be doing?

18. Who was Rhett's enemy?

19. How did Rhett's love for his enemy radically change him?

20.If you want more friends in your life and less enemies, what do you do?

21.Are you currently giving others the impression that the Church is a Body of Love or a Body of Vengeance?

22.The third reason we look so loveless in the Church is because of what?

23.What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

24.If we want to prove to people we're a true child of God and no longer a child of the devil, what do we do?

25.Based on your current behavior towards fellow Christians, whose child are you acting like?

26.How is this lack of love being the ultimate hypocrite?

27.What are some of the many excuses people give as to why they refuse to love these people?

28.Do you think any of these will fly with God?

29.Are you currently giving others the impression that the Church is a Body of Love or a Body of Hate?

Chapter Seven

A Body of Peace

Study

1. What was wrong with the Pastoral Search Committee?
2. How is this similar to the Church today?
3. What was the seventh thing we need to know about the Church if we're going to stop living like we have practical amnesia?

4. What passage of Scripture gives us the answer?

5. Whose peace has Jesus given to us?

6. Did Jesus say He might give it to us?

7. What did Jesus say about this peace? He said, "I give you My Peace _____
_____."

8. The first reason we look so peaceless in the Church is because of what?

9. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

10. God has given us Divine permission to never what?

11. If we have a concern what are we supposed to do?

12. When we do what God says to do, what will He give us?

13. What are some of the excuses people say as to why they aren't at peace?

14. Who's really creating this lack of peace?

15. How is this a slap in the face to God when we say we can't have His peace?

16. How did God show that He knew exactly what He was doing and knew how to provide for Corrie and her sister Betsy?

17. What “fleas” has God allowed into your life?

18. When we place our confidence back in God, what’s going to happen?

19. Are you currently giving others the impression that the Church is a Body of Peace or a Body of Worry?

20. The second reason we look so peaceless in the Church is because of what?

21. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

22. God says we can be what, in any and every situation in life?

23. How did God demonstrate His faithfulness in the survivors of 9/11?

24. Are you grateful for the mishaps God has allowed in your life?

25. When we are content in God, what's going to happen?

26. Are you currently giving others the impression that the Church is a Body of Peace or a Body of Stress?

27. The third reason we look so peaceless in the Church is because of what?

28. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

29. Why can we still have peace in this world even with so many troubles in this world?

30. What troubles has God allowed into your life?

31. Are you thankful for them?

32. Are you courageous in God?

33. When we place our courage back in God, what's going to happen?

34. How did God show that He was in control of Abraham Lincoln's circumstances?

35. How did God show that He was in control of Ira Sankey's circumstances?

36. How did God show that He was in control of Hein Pham's circumstances?

37.How is God showing you that He is in control of your circumstances?

38.Are you currently giving others the impression that the Church is a Body of Peace or a Body of Fear?

Chapter Eight

A Body of Strangers

Study

1. What did you think of the dumb criminal behavior Pastor Billy shared?
2. How is this similar to the Church today?
3. What was the eighth thing we need to know about the Church if we're going to stop living like we have practical amnesia?
4. What passage of Scripture gives us the answer?

5. Why did Abraham live in tents and roam around much of his life?

6. Where was his real home?

7. Which home are you acting like this is permanent?

8. Did Jesus save us for this current messed up earth?

9. The first reason we are no longer strangers living for heaven is because of what?

10. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

11. What should we be running after in life as a Christian?

12. Define the proverbial American Dream.

13. Is this God's dream?

14. What did Pastor Wurmbrand say that we have worse here in America than communism?

15. How is his statement true?

16. How is living a materialistic lifestyle giving the lost a faulty view of heaven?

17. Based on your current behavior, is it attracting people to heaven or this earth?

18. The second reason we are no longer strangers living for heaven is because of what?

19. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

20. Based on your current behavior, are you really showing God that you really love him?

21. All that we have accumulated here on earth will eventually be what?

22. Where are you storing up treasure? Heaven or earth?

23. How does the so-called American way of life get us to live only for this earth and the things of this world?

24. How is living the so-called American dream giving the lost a faulty view of heaven?

25. Based on your current behavior, is it attracting people to heaven or this earth?

26. The third reason we are no longer strangers living for heaven is because of what?

27. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

28. What do people get who worship the antichrist and his satanic world system?

29. What do the people who live for God get?

30. Based on your current behavior, who are you worshiping and who are you living for?

31. Why did Kevin's brother envy Kevin's simple faith in God?

32. How does the enemy get us to be so restless?

33. Are you under satan's yoke?

11. Right now, in your walk with Jesus, who is “molding” your mind?

12. The second reason we are no longer disciples of Christ is because of what?

13. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

14. Besides singing, what is the other primary activity we should be engaged in during Church services?

15. Is this the primary focus of the Church services you’re currently attending?

16. Do you take advantage of every opportunity you have to “Let God’s Word dwell in you richly?”

17. Based on your current level of involvement in becoming a disciple of Christ, would you say you’re being a faithful member of the Body of Christ?

18. The third reason we are no longer disciples of Christ is because of what?

19. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

20. How did Timothy “prove” himself to be a worthy disciple of Christ?

21. Right now, in your walk with Jesus, is this true of you? Why or why not?

22. What is the purpose of an education?

23. Is this how you are living?

24. How has our straying from our Founding Father's foundation affected our country?

25. What do we need to do to get it back?

26. What practical steps do you need to take right now to become a better disciple of Christ and be a part of the solution to the ills of our society and not continue to be a part of the problem?

27. Complete the closing statement made by Pastor Billy, "If you can't stop playing Church instead of being the Church, then maybe it's time you _____
_____."

Chapter Ten

A Body of Servants

Study

1. Have you accidentally put something gross in your mouth?
2. How is a “bad taste in the mouth” similar to the Church today?
3. What was the tenth thing we need to know about the Church if we’re going to stop living like we have practical amnesia?
4. What passage of Scripture gives us the answer?
5. What did Jesus say would make for a great or successful Christian?

6. How did the disciples get it wrong?

7. Based on your current walk with Jesus Christ, is it great or successful in God's eyes? Why or why not?

8. The first reason we are no longer servants like Christ is because of what?

9. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

10. What kind of life do we have according to Jesus when we serve other people like He did?

11. How does our world look upon serving people?

12. Are you excited and eager to serve every chance you get like our Lord Jesus Christ? Why or why not?

13. What do we call someone who is only concerned about themselves and serving themselves above all?

14. Would this label apply to you in your current walk with Jesus Christ?

15. What does God do when His children act this way?

16. The second reason we are no longer servants like Christ is because of what?

17. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

18. What was the difference between a “good” servant and a “bad” servant according to Jesus?

19. Based on your current track record and level of involvement, would you be considered a faithful servant?

20. The third reason we are no longer servants like Christ is because of what?

21. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

22. When we serve the needs of other people including the weak, what kind of life does Jesus say that is?

23. Which one of the two servants was the faithful blessed servant?

24. Compare your level of service to others to those two servants and how would Jesus classify you?

25. What was the hard lesson that the Mother learned when she wasn't willing to serve others?

26. What practical steps do you need to take right now to become a better servant of Christ?

27. Complete the closing statement made by Pastor Billy, "If you can't stop playing Church instead of being the Church, then maybe it's time you _____
_____."

9. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

10. Why does God not take us to heaven the moment we get saved?

11. Are you living up to the purpose of why God still has us here? Why or why not?

12. What are we to stand for as Christians?

13. How does the world define “truth” today?

14. How is this contrary to God's truth?

15. What do you think about the "Isaiah 5:20" passage from God and how does this apply to our society today?

16. What is the antidote to the ills of our society?

17. Based upon your current walk with Jesus Christ and how you take a stand for His truth, are you a part of the problem or the solution?

18.If the Church doesn't get serious about God's truth, what's going to happen to our country?

19.Is the Church service you're attending helping to "preserve" our country or "destroy" it?

20.If it's the latter and not the former, why do you continue to support it?

21.The second reason we are no longer rebels for Christ is because of what?

22.What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

23.What's the other reason why God does not take us to heaven the moment we get saved?

24.What does "light" naturally do to "darkness?"

25. Is your current walk with Jesus emanating God's "light" or adding to the "darkness" around us?

26. How does one practically "shine" for Jesus? Give examples.

27. If the Church loses its brightness what will happen to the Church?

28. If the Church loses its brightness what will happen to our country?

29. Are you a part of the solution to the "darkness" in the Church today? If so, explain how.

30. What does Jesus say about people who profess to know Him yet lose their "saltiness" or "brightness?"

Chapter Twelve

A Body of Worshipers

Study

1. Have you ever had a backseat driver give you instructions?
2. How is this “annoying” behavior similar to the Church today?
3. What was the twelfth thing we need to know about the Church if we’re going to stop living like we have practical amnesia?
4. What was the greatest commandment we could ever follow according to Jesus?
5. What were the four negative responses people give when encouraged to obey the greatest commandment? Fill in the blank. They will do it whenever _____ . They will do it whenever _____ . They will do it whenever _____ . They will do it whenever _____ .

6. How is the greatest commandment supposed to be fulfilled?

7. Is this true right now in your walk with God?

8. The first reason we've stopped worshiping God is because of what?

9. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

10. Why does man have such foolish and darkened hearts today?

11. How is the so-called American Dream contrary to God's commands?

12. What did D. Martin Lloyd Jones say a man's god was?

13. Based on your current walk with Jesus Christ, who's your God?

14. The second reason we've stopped worshiping God is because of what?

15. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

16. Besides tempting us to sin, what is Satan's other goal towards us?

17. Based on your current behavior, are you living to satisfy God or self?

18. What are some of the evidences that people, even Christians, are living for self instead of God?

19. If Satan is all about living for self and our world only lives for self, who's "child" are they acting like?

20. The third reason we've stopped worshiping God is because of what?

21. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

22. What did Jesus say could never mix? Explain why.

23. Based on your current behavior, who's your Master?

24. How was that Christian doctor showing that God really was his Master in life?

25. What did you think of the true story of what happened to those children in Haiti?

26. Does this grieve your heart?

27. What was the reason why that event even happened to those children in Haiti?

28. Based on your current behavior, are you helping or hurting others with who you are really worshiping?

29. If you're not helping but hurting, do you really think God is pleased with your behavior?

30. Do you care enough to do anything about it and what practical steps can and will you take from this day forward to be a better "helper?"

31. Complete the closing statement made by Pastor Billy, "If you can't stop playing Church instead of being the Church, then maybe it's time you _____
_____."

3. What was the thirteenth thing we need to know about the Church if we're going to stop living like we have practical amnesia?

4. What were the three different ways the Apostle Paul said we were to compare the Christian life to? Fill in the blank. We are to run like an _____. We are to work hard like a _____. We are to fight like a _____.

5. Are these spiritual comparisons true right now in your walk with God?

6. The first reason we've stopped fighting the great cosmic battle is because of what?

7. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

8. What is the Biblical remedy for staying strong against the enemy's attacks as a Christian?

9. What was the Church's current view on spiritual warfare, satan and demons, and the supernatural world?

10. How is this view affecting their walk with Jesus Christ?

11. The second reason we've stopped fighting the great cosmic battle is because of what?

12. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

13. Other than serving others, what was the other thing we Christians are supposed to be doing for each other?

14. Is this true of you and how you treat your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ?

15.If Christians spend all their time fighting each other, then who will they not be fighting?

16.Does the answer reveal who's behind getting Christians to do this to each other?

17.What do you think of the testimonies of the former satanists?

18.Do you think this has ever happened at the Church service you attend? Why or why not?

19.What were they tactics they used to destroy Churches?

20. Have you ever been a part of these destructive tools the enemy uses to destroy where you attend Church services?

21. The third reason we've stopped fighting the great cosmic battle is because of what?

22. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

23. What did Jonah refuse to do in obedience to God?

24. How did God respond to Jonah's unwillingness to obey?

25. Based on your current walk with Jesus, are you acting like Jonah?

26. What's the first way the enemy tries to destroy our morale so we will no longer fight the great cosmic battle?

27. How you ever felt "unqualified" as a Christian?

28. Where do you think that thought was coming from?

29. If God only used "perfect" people what would He be doing today? Fill in the blank. He'd still be _____ today!

30. What's the second way the enemy tries to destroy our morale so we will no longer fight the great cosmic battle?

31. Have you ever found yourself giving forth any of the same excuses?

32. How does this apply to the Church today including your current walk with Jesus Christ today?

10. The first reason we've stopped witnessing to the lost is because of what?

11. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

12. What was one of the Apostle Paul's greatest longings in life?

13. How did he respond to this longing? He earnestly what?

14. Aren't you glad someone did this for you before you got saved?

15. What were some of the things that we Christians pray for that has nothing to do with souls being saved?

16. Is this true of the Church service where you currently attend?

17. Why were graveyards placed right next to Church facilities back in the history of our country?

18. What does their lack of placement near a Church facility today say about the Church's spiritual condition?

19. The second reason we've stopped being witnesses to the lost is because of what?

20. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

21. The Apostle Paul not only prayed for the lost, he also what?

22. Is this true of you?

23. Aren't you glad somebody did this to you before you were saved?

24. What are some of the faulty excuses Christians give today as to why they don't share the Gospel with the lost?

25. Do you think any of these excuses will "fly" with God?

26. What do you think of the list that Pastor Billy shared with all those professions who refused to fulfill their duties in rescuing people in need?

27. How is this just as egregious to Christians who refuse to share the Gospel and rescue the lost?

28. The third reason we've stopped being witnesses to the lost is because of what?

29. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

30. When people get saved through Jesus, they escape from going to where?

31. Don't you think others would want to know how they can escape this place as well?

32. Are you telling them how?

33. Would you want to have a so-called friend who knew how to but never told you how to escape this place?

34. Based on your current walk with Jesus Christ, what kind of “friend” are you being to those people God has purposely and strategically placed around you?

3. What was the fifteenth thing we need to know about the Church if we're going to stop living like we have practical amnesia?

4. What passage of Scripture gives us the answer?

5. Why did Jesus tell us to "take heart?"

6. Since Jesus defeated sin, death, satan, and hell and we belong to Him, what does this make us?

7. Is this truth reflected in your current countenance and walk with Jesus Christ?

8. If not, what kind of impression are you giving to others about Jesus and does this concern you?

9. The first reason why we look like a bunch of losers in Christ is because of what?

10. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

11. What was the “strange law” that the Apostle Paul mentioned we Christians still deal with in life?

12. What does God do with us as Christians when we still sin after being saved?

13. What does God “not” do to us as Christians when we still sin after being saved?

14. Fill in the blank. “There is no _____ for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

15. Are you glad about this?

16. Fill in the blank. “Right now, though Jesus, God sees us as if we’ve _____ sinned.”

17. Do you really believe this?

18. Fill in the blank. "I've got good news for you. Jesus has _____ your tape!"

19. Did you shout aloud with this?

20. The second reason why we look like a bunch of losers in Christ is because of what?

21. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

22. Why did Moses choose to be mistreated with the people of God rather than enjoying the temporary so-called pleasure of sin?

23. What was Moses “not” looking forward to?

24. Is this true of you?

25. List 10 of the 20 different Biblical descriptions of heaven that Pastor Billy shared.

26. Are you glad that Jesus is taking you to this place?

27. Don't you think others would want to know how they can go to this place as well?

28. Are you telling them how?

29. Would you want to have a so-called friend who knew how to get there but never told you how?

30. Based on your current walk with Jesus Christ, what kind of “friend” are you being to those people God has purposely and strategically placed around you?

31. The third reason why we look like a bunch of losers in Christ is because of what?

32. What passage of Scripture corrects this error?

33. What will happen to us when we “put on immortality?”

34. Does this excite you?

35. What do you think about the last words of people who rejected Jesus Christ as their Personal Savior?

36. Does this motivate you to share Jesus to those around you who are in danger of having a similar “last moment” here on earth?

37. What do you think of the last words of Christians who accepted Jesus Christ as their Personal Lord and Savior?

38. Is this encouraging to you?

39. Are you encouraging others to do the same?

40. Based on your current behavior, what do you think your last words will be when, not if, your time comes?

41. Complete the closing statement made by Pastor Billy, “If you can’t stop playing Church instead of being the Church, then maybe it’s time you _____
_____.”

How to Receive Jesus Christ:

1. Admit your need (I am a sinner).
2. Be willing to turn from your sins (repent).
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the Cross and rose from the grave.
4. Through prayer, invite Jesus Christ to come in and control your life through the Holy Spirit. (Receive Him as Lord and Savior.)

What to pray:

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins. I want to turn from my sins. I now invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as Lord and Savior.

In Jesus' name. Amen.