

# Spiritual Disciplines Within The Church

## Chapter 12: Why Learn in the Church?

### **Introduction:**

*“The institution of the church is a necessary, helpful, God-given, and God-ordained means of spiritual growth and development. It is meant to be there—and it is meant to be used.”*

### **I. The church is “the pillar and ground of the truth” of God.**

- A. God created the church and gave it the responsibility to elevate His Word. (*1 Tim. 3:15*)
- B. The world is not going to uphold the truth of God for you. It is in a faithful, Bible-teaching church that you will be taught the truth. (*Heb. 5:12*)
- C. Stand afar from the pillar of God’s truth and you will likely stand far from understanding His truth well.

### **II. Christian discipleship is more than academics.**

- A. “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some.” (*Heb. 10:25, Col. 1:28*)
- B. We need to learn in the church, because Christian learning is more than just acquiring data. (*Phil. 4:9*)

### **III. God has placed gifted people in the church to teach you.**

- A. “For the edifying of the body of Christ” (*Eph. 4:11-12*)
- B. Teachers in the church are treasures from God, and we reject God’s gifts if we don’t learn in the church.

### **IV. God’s greatest commandment is to love Him with all your mind.** (*Mark 12:30; Rev. 2:4-5*)

- A. If He has your love, He has everything else. (*Rom. 12:2*)
- B. You express your love by what you mentally initiate.
- C. You express your love by what you mentally cultivate. (*Phil 4:8*)
- D. You express your love by what you mentally tolerate.

### **V. Learning in the church helps protect you from errors.** (*Acts 18:24-26*)

\*“None of us has all insight, all understanding, or all spiritual gifts. As a result many of the terms, doctrines, meanings, and applications of Scripture may remain indecipherable without the “codebreakers” God has provided in the church. Are you wise enough and humble enough to learn from them?”