

May 16, 2021



"I LOVE JESUS, BUT DO I NEED THE CHURCH?"

John Greene, Senior Pastor

1 PETER 2:4-12 (NASB)

QUESTION: Is "the Church" vital to every believer's life, or isn't it? Genesis 1:26-27

TRUTH: There has never been a time when God didn't exist as Father, Son and Holy Spirit in a perfect relationship with one another.

INSIGHT: To be created in the image of God, as we are, is to be created, to be made for community, for relationships (1 Peter 2:9).

TRUTH: If you are truly saved by Jesus Christ, you owe Christ a common allegiance.

QUESTION: As a believer, is gathering with believers for weekly worship optional for you?

I. THE NECESSITY OF RELATIONAL CONNECTION, FELLOWSHIP, TO LIVE FOR CHRIST

TRUTH: We live today in a disconnected society... People live alienated lives that leave them vulnerable to satanic deception (Genesis 2:18).

TRUTH: You and I were made for biblical relationships, biblical connections.

TRUTH: The Bible has a word to describe connecting with people at the deepest level: fellowship.

TWO OF GOD'S WARNINGS FOR GRADUATES:

1. 1 Corinthians 15:33: "Don't be deceived, bad company corrupts good character, good morals."

2. You cannot live the Christian life in isolation.

INSIGHT: We use the word "fellowship" to refer to hanging out with people...it isn't; as having a party...it isn't; as being with friends...it isn't.

TRUTH: Biblical fellowship is soul-to-soul connection, knowing and being known.

QUESTION: Do you need the local church, daily, weekly in your life? Do seniors going off to school need to find a church? Answer: Yes!

TRUTH: Church was never meant to be a place to attend but a group to be connected to.

II. CHURCH IS LIKE BEING A BRICK IN A BUILDING (Ephesians 2:20-22).

TRUTH: So many who come here are spectators but not participators...they lack connection.

QUESTION ON EPHESIANS 2:20-22: Why did God choose a building as an illustration of what it means to be spiritually connected? Answer: Because in a building all the connected parts support each other.

TRUTH: One of the deepest needs in your life is support: emotional, physical and spiritual.

INVITATION INSIGHT: It is in Life groups and D-groups that connection takes place.