

Love the Church | *First Love Again*

Preston Morrison | February 10 & 13, 2022

1. What is the church?

What the church is not...

#1 - The church is not defined by you.

Church: an earthly business entity where a pastor gets me to do the work he is paid to do while getting me to give him my money.

Your definition of church is not THE definition of church.

Any definition of church that is based on what you think rather than on what God says is faulty.

#2 - The church isn't you.

1 Corinthians 3:16 (NKJV)

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

1 Peter 2:5 (NLT)

And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple.

2 Corinthians 6:16 (NLT)

For we are the temple of the living God. As God said: "I will live in them and walk among them.

1 Corinthians 12:27 (NLT)

All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.

I am not it, I am part of it, which means only together are we, it.

What the church is...

The church is a people and a place.

#1 - The House of God

Acts 2:44 (NLT)

And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had.

Luke 2:49 (NLT)

“But why did you need to search?” he asked. “Didn’t you know that I must be in my Father’s house?”

1 Timothy 3:14–15 (NLT)

I am writing these things to you now, even though I hope to be with you soon, 15 so that if I am delayed, you will know how people must conduct themselves in the household of God. This is the church of the living God, which is the pillar and foundation of the truth.

House of God: the place where the people of God serve and celebrate with the family of God, worshipping the One true God, in the presence of God.

#2- The People of God

The church is not just a place I go to, it is a family I belong to.

Romans 12:4–5 (NLT)

Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, 5 so it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

A long distance relationship keeps us close enough to feel connected but not close enough to GIVE what they need and GET what I need.

Hebrews 10:25 (NLT)

And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

2. Why should I go to church?

#1 - You need what we have.

1 Corinthians 12:20–21 (NKJV)

But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. 21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”

God created every child of God to need the people of God which is why he set us in the family of God.

#2 - We need what you have.

Ephesians 4:16 (NKJV)

From the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body fo the edifying of itself in love.

#3 - Your heart is there.

God doesn't want you to just come to church, he wants you to WANT to come.

Psalm 122:1 (NLT)

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

Matthew 6:21 (NKJV)

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The more invested you are in something, the more you will care about that thing.

#4 - It's where the family of God has it's weekly family meal.

It's easy to leave a church when you don't see them as family. It's easy not to come to church when you don't understand it's our weekly family meal.

Malachi 3:8–10 (NKJV)

"Will a man rob God?

Yet you have robbed Me!

But you say,

'In what way have we robbed You?'

In tithes and offerings.

9 You are cursed with a curse,

For you have robbed Me,

Even this whole nation.

10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse,

That there may be food in My house

#5 - It's where you learn unconditional love.

The only way to learn unconditional love is to commit to live in community with a group of people who don't meet all of your conditions.

#6 - It's one of God's favorite places to meet with you.

Deuteronomy 12:4–7 (NLT)

"Do not worship the Lord your God in the way these pagan peoples worship their gods.

5 Rather, you must seek the Lord your God at the **place** of worship he himself will choose from among all the tribes—the **place** where his name will be honored. 6 **There** you will bring your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, your sacred offerings, your offerings to fulfill a vow, your voluntary offerings, and your offerings of the firstborn animals of your herds and flocks. 7 **There** you and your families will feast in the presence of the Lord your

God, and you will rejoice in all you have accomplished because the Lord your God has blessed you.

3. What do I do with the church?

#1 - Serve Him and them in it.

1 Peter 4:10 (NLT)

God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.

Galatians 6:10 (NKJV)

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

When God gives you a gift and you give it to me, my heart explodes and my life is changed.

#2 - Sacrifice in it, for them, like Him.

Ephesians 5:25 (NLT)

For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her