

HIGHER AIM WITH DR. CURT DODD

Commitment To Christ And His Church

What We Believe | Part 3 | John 3:16

INTRODUCTION

We live in a world where cultural tides shift rapidly, but God's truth remains steady. As believers, we must know exactly what we believe and why we believe it. We do not anchor our lives in what is shifting, but in Christ who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. This sermon guide will help you reflect on the foundational truths of our faith. We will explore the absolute lordship of Jesus Christ, the unwavering authority of Scripture, and the beautiful necessity of committing to a local family of believers. When culture pushes against the truth, we do not panic. We remain faithful, rooted in the Word, and connected to one another.

KEY POINTS

1. The Lordship of Christ and the Authority of Scripture

The foundation of our faith rests on the truth that Jesus Christ is Lord. As the apostle Paul reminds us in *Philippians 2*, one day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God the Father. Because Jesus is Lord, his Word is our ultimate guide. We believe in the authority, inspiration, and sufficiency of the Bible. When the world tries to explain away biblical morality or claims that God's will is constantly evolving, we stand firm. We must always ask ourselves what the Word of God teaches. From *Romans 1* to the Old Testament law, Scripture remains entirely applicable to our lives today.

2. The Experience of Grace and Individual Accountability

God loves the entire world, as *John 3:16* clearly states. However, salvation requires a personal response. We believe in the competency of the soul, which means you are individually responsible for your relationship with God. The Holy Spirit draws you, but you must personally turn from your sin, place your faith in Christ, and experience the grace of being born again. No one else can answer for you. Your willingness to surrender your life reveals your closeness to God and your understanding of his grace.

HIGHER AIM WITH DR. CURT DODD

Commitment To Christ And His Church

What We Believe | Part 3 | John 3:16

3. The Biblical Call to a Converted Church Membership

God did not design you to walk through life alone. The word for church, "ekklesia", describes those called out of the world and to Christ. We believe in a converted church membership. This means a local church is made up of individuals who have personally experienced the saving grace of Jesus.

In *Acts 2:46–47*, we see the early church meeting daily in the temple courts, breaking bread, and praising God. They linked their hearts together. Historically, church membership allowed believers to know who they could count on for service, accountability, and discipleship. Early Christians even used the sign of the fish, the ichthys, to identify themselves and commit to one another, even when it cost them dearly. Today, treating the church like a television station you can simply flip through denies the deep, supportive root system God intends for his people.

Faithfulness over time is one of the greatest testimonies a believer can offer. If you have never given your life to Jesus, that is your first and most vital step. Turn from your sin and place your trust in him today. If you are already a follower of Christ, ask yourself if you are truly connected to a local church. We need to stand together with linked arms and linked hearts, especially as the climate of our culture changes. Find a local body of believers, commit to them, and serve faithfully. The legacy you leave behind will be shaped by how much you loved God and how faithfully you served his people.

HIGHER AIM WITH DR. CURT DODD

Commitment To Christ And His Church

What We Believe | Part 3 | John 3:16

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. In what practical ways can you demonstrate your commitment to Christ in your daily life?
2. How does the authority of Scripture shape your beliefs, choices, and relationships?
3. What steps can you take to deepen your connection and commitment to your local church family?
