



COVENANT CHURCH

From The Heart - Part 1

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November 1, 2020

Below is a devotional study guide for you to refer to and reflect during the week. You can watch the service online again, anytime, at www.covenantchurch.org/media or on the CovLive app.

If you do not have a physical Bible, we encourage you to download one to your device. YouVersion is available in the Apple Store or on Google Play for free. It contains hundreds of versions, is translated into several languages, and includes thousands of devotional studies available right at your fingertips.

If you are a part of a Small Group, be creative in ways to meet-up. This guide can be a useful tool to lead discussions, whether it be through email, a Facebook group, a Zoom call, etc. If you have not yet joined a Small Group, there's no better time! Go to www.covenantchurch.org/groups or Small Groups on the CovLive app to search for a group that interests you!

Main Idea

In order to be fully surrendered followers of Christ, our active participation in local church attendance is essential. It is God's idea!

Introduction

Our Mission & Our Vision

- The 'Why' - our Mission Statement
 - We exist to see:
 - Lost people saved
 - Saved people pastored
 - Pastored people trained
 - Trained people mobilized
 - Our Mission involves a process - a next step
 - In order to grow, learning is a lifelong process.
 - Our mission summed up: **We want to develop fully surrendered followers of Christ.**
- The 'How' - our Vision
 - Know God - church experience
 - Find Freedom - small groups, relationship
 - Discover Your Purpose
 - Make a Difference
 - Read Ephesians 2:1 - The purpose of doing good things
 - It's impossible to do that without knowing our purpose
 - Each step in the vision has a practical application, which helps you measure how surrendered you are.
- STEP 1: Know God
 - Do I consistently attend church? Am I intentional about gathering with other believers?

Discussion One

Church is Conception-Central - God's idea!

- Church (and church attendance) was conceived by God.
- God told Moses to build a sanctuary after He delivered the children of Israel from the bondage of Egypt.
- Read: Exodus 25:8-9 - "Build me a tabernacle" - a place of worship
- Read: Numbers 2 - Directed them to set up camp around the tabernacle
- God set a precedent to build our life around the house of God.
- Coming together is transformative - more energy and anointing together.
- The blueprint of the earthly church matches the one in heaven.
- The church is God's heartbeat, and should be our heartbeat.
- Being an active part of the church body is a way to measure how surrendered we are.

Discussion Two

Church is Celebration-Central

- We celebrate together, all that God has done and is doing.
- Read Hebrews 10:10
- Read Hebrews 10:14-22
 - God made us holy - separate, uncommon.
 - God put His law in our hearts so that we can joyfully obey Him.
 - We are connected in our common experience and we are deliberate in our encouragement of good works.
- Good News is meant to be shared, celebrate together.
- Read Psalms 27:4-5
 - We want to build our life in the house of the Lord.
 - It's where God will shield and hide us.
- There is peace, joy and love in His secret place.

Discussion Three

Church is Command-Central

- Read: Matthew 23:18-20
 - We are commanded to teach new disciples to obey the commands of God.
 - Our Commander-In-Chief - Jesus chooses to work through the Church, not government or business - but the House of God and the people of God.
- We must be aware of the threats, but focus on our humanitarian operation for God's glory.
- Read: Matthew 25:34-41, 44-46
 - When we have served the 'least' of these, it's as if we have done it to Jesus.
 - Jesus' concern is how we treat one another.
 - It's what made the difference between those who received eternal life and those who received everlasting punishment.
- True Christians help fellow Christians because their life has been transformed.
- Caring for those in need together, is a practical expression of ministry that happens through the local church.
- We KNOW GOD better by building our life around the House of God, in His presence.
- Read Psalms 92:13 - We flourish in life when we are planted (connected) to the House of God.

Reflective Questions

For *From The Heart*

1. Why is church attendance important?
2. How have you seen your life improved and grown by being involved in a local community of believers?
3. What are some ways you can help your fellow Christian? How do you lean on your church relationships now? If you aren't involved in a small group, we encourage you to find one or start one. Do life together.
4. With the challenges we are facing in Fall 2020, with physical distancing, working/school from home, etc..., how have you adapted to ensure you stay connected with your local church?