11/08/26 Message

Part of FollowJourney of Discipleship
November 7, 2026

Message: Who Needs the Church

Series: Follow

Background

> *I'm approaching this series as if we are all in the same stage of our journey with Jesus, at the beginning. For some, this will be a review, but for most it will be a guide for what comes next. For all of us, if we'll let God work in and through us, we'll grow closer to Jesus and each other.*
>
> *—Pastor Chad*

Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT)
19 "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

> *It's a circle of life with Jesus at the center. When you jump on the circle, it should be your goal to reach out and grab everyone you can and pull them on the circle with you. There's a lot more to it, but it's a great illustration. When you commit your life to Jesus and you commit to following Jesus, then you become His disciple. It's like being a student. You're only a student as long as you choose to be. That's the problem with this thing we call the spiritual journey. So many of us choose Jesus when we need Him, but when life is good, we forget all about Him. We stop being a student!*
>
> *—Pastor Chad*

- The spiritual journey is intended to be a LIFELONG commitment where you start and never stop.

A Place to Belong

- The church offers us a place to belong because of WHO we have in common
  – Because of Jesus

What is the Church

> *The church isn't a place, it's not an address, it's not an event, it's not a temple or a tabernacle for the holy of holies or the ark of the covenant. Because of Jesus and what he did for us, the church isn't a place, the church is a people! If you believe and follow Jesus, you are the church. But there's a catch. You're not the church all by yourself.*
>
> *—Pastor Chad*

- The church is a COMMUNITY

Matthew 16:18 (NLT)
Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means rock), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.

Who Needs the Church

- We all need the church
  – The church is a family

Ephesians 2:19 (NLT)
So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family.

Galatians 6:10 (NLT)
Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone – especially to those in the family of faith.

> *Here's the problem we have in 2026. We've made the church into a place where strangers come together but we leave just as strange to each other as we were when we got here. Because church is an event, we come and we*

go, but we don't BELONG to the family, we aren't DEVOTED to the family, and we don't remain CONNECTED to the family! When we're saved by the amazing grace of Jesus, not only are we forgiven, not only are we saved from death, hell, and the grave…

—Pastor Chad

– We are <u>ADOPTED</u> into the family of God

Read ***Luke 14:26***

If you belong to another family, you can't be adopted. You must be an orphan to be adopted. Jesus was telling these new disciples, if you want to follow me, you must love me more than anyone else. You must love your family less than me. Then it gets really special, because Jesus is teaching them once you become an orphan and separate from who you used to be, then Jesus starts the rebuilding process in your life. It starts with adoption. Then, you become part of this new family. Through the new you, every other relationship in your life has God's hand on it. You don't lose the relationship with your biological family, instead your relationship with them becomes better because it's infused with the grace and mercy of Jesus.

—Pastor Chad

I don't think we really understand what being saved is all about. It's not just a simple decision without change. We want the forgiveness, blessings, and gift of heaven but it's often a short-sighted, emotional decision without any real intent to become an orphan. Being an orphan means becoming nothing and having nothing. Jesus can work with that! One of the great benefits of being adopted is being given a family! Our biological family can be in the family too, but it may mean we have some work to do. It means we become the hands and feet of Jesus to get them to see how they can be adopted too! When we become nothing and have nothing, then Jesus can be our everything! And then he gives us what we need! First, we

need a community, we need a connection, we need a family! That's the church!

—Pastor Chad

To some degree, we have to understand if we reject the family of God, if we reject the church, we're essentially rejecting God himself.
– ***Colossians 1:18*** says that Jesus is the head of the church.
– ***Ephesians 1:22-23***, the church is the body of Christ.
– ***1 Timothy 3:14-15***, the church is the household of God.

Why do we need the church?

Acts 2:41-47 (NLT)
41 Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day – about 3,000 in all.
42 All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.
43 A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders.
44 And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had.
45 They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.
46 They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity –
47 all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

Until now, all the work of Jesus had been with Jesus. Now, he ascended to heaven, so it was their turn to make disciples who would make disciples. Before there could be a church, the disciples had to gather people together and tell them about Jesus. Once they were saved, this became the first service of the New Testament church! It wasn't the place. It wasn't the event. It was the people! The new believers didn't simply just return to their old lives; they became a community. That's what Jesus modeled to the

first disciples. That's what he spent three years molding them into. Not a place, not an event, but a community, a family!

—Pastor Chad

Read ***Ephesians 4:11-16***

Read ***Hebrews 10:24-25***

Read ***1 Corinthians 12:12-27***

What's Your Type

If your purpose is serving him as a connected, active part of his body, the church… Are you?

—Pastor Chad

There are four types of people in this world.
- Sleepers
– Spiritually asleep and disconnected from the church
- Seekers
– Spiritually lost but want to know more
- Consumers
– Unfaithfully attend, avoid discipleship or serving
- Disciples
– Engaged, actively growing, serving, and reproducing

Which one are you?

I don't want you to get comfortable on the sidelines. People on the sidelines miss out. God has never called you to sit on the sidelines, he has called you to follow him, be a disciple that makes disciples, and live actively with your church family that he has given you. Following Jesus isn't a solo journey, it's one we were created to be on together!

—Pastor Chad

Who needs the church?

You do!