



Churches come in all kinds of shapes and sizes, and they do all kinds of things, some of which are truly wonderful and some of which can honestly seem pretty weird to the outsider looking in. But when it comes to our church, **North Coast Family Fellowship**, all that really matters is that we are dedicated to being the church Jesus wants us to be and “doing church” the way Jesus wants it done in 2023! The Bible clearly teaches that *Christ is the head over all things in the church which is His Body* (Ephesians 1:22-23). In other words, this church belongs to Jesus. So the question becomes, what does Jesus want for NCFE? Today we’ll look at several key verses from Scripture to see what the Lord of NCFE has in mind for us as **together** we enter into this new year and new chapter.

## BASIC ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT NCFE

1. (Colossians 1:18) NCFE...
2. (Ephesians 4:32) NCFE...
3. (Matthew 16:18) NCFE...
4. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7) NCFE...
5. (Ephesians 4:1) NCFE...

## BOTTOMLINE TRUTHS OF NCFE

1. (Matthew 22:37-39) The Great ...
2. (Matthew 16:15-16) The Great ...

3. (Matthew 28:18-20) The Great ...

## BIBLICAL BEHAVIORS TO BUILD NCFE

1. (John 4:23) \_\_\_\_\_ Commitment.
2. (Acts 2:26) \_\_\_\_\_ Commitment.
3. (Psalm 46:10; Matthew 11:28) \_\_\_\_\_ Commitment.
4. (1 Peter 4:10) \_\_\_\_\_ Commitment.
5. (Ephesians 4:12) \_\_\_\_\_ Commitment.
6. (2 Peter 3:9; Acts 1:8) \_\_\_\_\_ Commitment.

## FOR THOUGHT & TALK

Take no more than 5 minutes to quickly review the main points from Pastor John’s message. As you discuss the questions, don’t expect to answer all of them. Just discuss the ones your group would most like to explore together. *Remember, the goal of your small group is to grow together relationally, to **apply** God’s Word to our daily living, and to pray for one another and our church.*

1. Why is it important that the first thing we need to know about our church, NCFE, is that this church belongs to Jesus, not to us? Why is it equally important to understand that NCFE isn’t “the perfect church”? How did you feel about PJ’s statement that though NCFE isn’t perfect, it is (by God’s grace), incredibly kind and loving? What do you love about NCFE? What could **you do** to help NCFE be even more kind and loving?
2. What does it mean that this specific local church (NCFE) is part of something much **BIGGER**? Jesus said in **Matthew 16:18** ... *I will build my church and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it.* **Acts 20:28** tells us *Jesus purchased the church with His own blood.* What do these verses show us about Jesus’ feelings toward His church and plans for His church? If our goal is to think and feel like Christ, what do you suppose our thoughts and feelings toward the church should be?
3. What does it mean that NCFE is a church family for engaging, not spectating? What has God given you, and how are you gifted/talented/blessed, to get engaged at NCFE? **1 Corinthians 12:4-7** reads, *In the church there are a variety of gifts, abilities, ministries, and impacts that God the Holy Spirit disperses amongst all of us. The church is like the parts of a human body, all **serving and working together as one.*** Why is it good for you to get engaged, serving at church, and why is it good for the church to have you engaged in serving?
4. **“GC3”** stands for Great Commandment (**Matthew 22:37-39**), Great Confession (**Matthew 16:15-16**), Great Commission (**Matthew 28:18-20**). Read aloud each one of these passages and then, in your own words, restate what each one of them means. Why are these verses so important for grasping what Jesus has in mind for His church to be and do?
5. One at a time, state the six “S Experiences/Commitments” and explain what they mean. How will actually doing each one of the spiritual habits help build you as an individual Christian and our church together as a body of Jesus followers?