



Today we begin a new mini-series at NCFE called, “**ENGAGE**”. This word was chosen because it clearly reflects how all of us are to relate to **Christ & His Church**. We are to fully engage. According to the Bible, when Jesus saves a person, that individual automatically becomes a member of the Church (**1 Corinthians 12:13**). That is a big deal. But why? And, what exactly is the Church? It is everyone who has submitted their lives to the *Lord Jesus* as their *God and Savior* (from sin & death). Plus, it is the one & only group of people that God has specifically called to bring the hope of eternal life to the entire world by proclaiming who Jesus is, what Jesus is like and how Jesus wants each of us to live our lives (**1 Peter 2:9**). Listen, the Church alone has been entrusted with communicating the transforming message of the Gospel (**1 Timothy 3:15**). Beloved, the Church is Jesus’ championship team for changing the world and you (if you are a Christian) are a part of it! For the next four Sundays, NCFE will be focusing in on how Jesus wants us to fully *engage* as members of His Church.

### WHY THIS MATTERS

(**Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:15; Ephesians 5:25**)

### 3 WAYS TO ENGAGE WITH GOD

(**James 4:13-15; Jeremiah 50:24; 1 Chronicles 9:33**)

*We are living stones that God is building into His spiritual temple for this day & age. What’s more, we are His holy priests. Through what Jesus has done for us, we now qualify to continually offer **spiritual sacrifices** that please God. (**1 Peter 2:5**)*

## BIBLICAL TIME BASICS

1. (**Psalm 139:16**) Recognize that He sets ...
2. (**John 5:28-29**) Realize He decides ...
3. (**Colossians 4:5**) Understand that this lifetime is your big chance to ...
4. (**Ephesians 5:16,18**) Constantly ask the Holy Spirit to ...
5. (**Romans 14:10,12**) Be motivated because ...

## BEST TIME USE

1. (**Romans 13:11,14**) Start each day by ...
2. (**Psalms 127:2**) Definitely decide what will not ...
3. (**1 Thessalonians 5:17**) Make it your habit to ...
4. (**Hebrews 10:25**) Prioritize being highly engaged in ...
5. (**2 Corinthians 6:2**) Live to ...

## FOR THOUGHT & TALK

*In your small group take 5-10 minutes to review the main points of Pastor John’s message. Discuss the following questions, taking your time as the Spirit leads, realizing you don’t have to cover them all.*

1. Ok, we all know it, but this side of Heaven, the Church isn’t perfect. Sadly, most of us tend to gripe about these imperfections. And yet, Jesus is madly in love with His Church. So, let’s focus on the positive. How has the Church been a blessing in your life? What are some of the best characteristics of the brothers & sisters in the Church? How have you been involved in the Church? Bottomline, according to Scripture, how important spiritually to your *personal life* is active engagement in the *community life* of the Church?
2. Read aloud **1 Peter 2:5** from a couple of different translations. What were the four *spiritual sacrifices* (Pastor John emphasized) that we as modern-day priests of God are to bring to Christ & His Church?
3. Read aloud **Hebrews 10:25** and **Galatians 5:13**. The Bible is clear that God wants every believer is to be highly engaged in the Church. Why does your involvement matter to others and how does being involved help you? What do you make of this statement from PJ: *The busier you are ... the more in pain you are ... the more you struggle with temptation & sin ... the more overwhelmed you feel ... the more you need time in Church with God’s people.*
4. When it comes to the use of your time in 2022, what are your plans for giving a spiritual sacrifice of your time to NCFE? Name a ministry (or two) where you think the Holy Spirit wants to use you in our church family. Close up your small group by praying for the Lord to help you be more faithful in giving your time to the Church.

*01.09.22 - 1st in the series of messages by Pastor John K. Nagle titled “Engaged”. For more information about Jesus or NCFE, check us out at [www.ncffchurch.org](http://www.ncffchurch.org)*