

SERMON NOTES:

Perilous Waters | *Navigating the Dangerous Currents Shaping the Church*

Part 3: “I Don’t Need The Church”

BIG Idea: Following Jesus is personal, but never private; Jesus designed us to belong to and live out our faith within His Church.

Application: Move from attending to belonging: make gathering with a healthy local church a settled commitment, contribute to the Body, and refuse to let past hurt isolate you from Christian community.

Join us as we read the Bible together in 2026.

<https://bit.ly/ReadwithMe26>

Can we faithfully follow Jesus while treating our own gathering with the local Church as optional?

“Do you really value what Jesus values?”

WHAT MAKES THE LOCAL CHURCH IMPORTANT?

1. It’s important because the Church belongs to Jesus.
2. It’s important because, “The Christianity” that the apostles handed down included Jesus’ Church.

Acts 2:41-47

3. It’s important because God designed our Christian life to be lived out with one another in the local church.

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 NLT

Hebrews 10:23-25 NLT

²³ Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. ²⁴ Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. ²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

CHURCH HURT

Psalms 55:12-14 NLT

¹² It is not an enemy who taunts me I could bear that. It is not my foes who so arrogantly insult me I could have hidden from them. ¹³ Instead, it is you—my equal, my companion and close friend. ¹⁴ What good fellowship we once enjoyed as we walked together to the house of God.

Isaiah 43:2 NLT

² When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you.

Challenging Questions

- Do you actually belong or are you more of a guest at church?
- Are these your people?
- Is gathering with the local church on a regular basis a settled commitment for you or is being committed to the local church something you did not know is really important to Jesus and should be important to you?
- Is there something or someone that you sense God is wanting you to let go, to forgive from a past Church hurt so you can move forward in your faith?

Becoming a Christian is a personal decision but being a Christian should NEVER be confused as being a private thing.