

Busted Faith: Healing from Church Hurt

May 6 & 7, 2023

All Bible passages are quoted from the New International Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

1 Corinthians 1:10-11 | ¹⁰ I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. ¹¹ My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you.

Why does Church Hurt, hurt worse?

- **We have higher expectations of Christians (especially leaders.)**
- **We confuse a Pastor with the perfection of Jesus.**
- **We associate one bad church experience with every church.**

BIG IDEA: You can find healing after church hurt.

To Overcome a painful church experience:

1. Realize the CHURCH didn't hurt you, a PERSON did.

Matthew 23:27-28 (NLT) | ²⁷ Hypocrites! ... ²⁸ Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness.

2. FORGIVE like Christ.

Matthew 6:14 (NLT) | If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you.

3. RE-ENGAGE in the FAMILY of God.

Hebrews 10:24-25 | ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

NEXT STEP: Move beyond your hurt, become part of the family.

Further Study & Discussion Questions

Getting to Know You:

What has been one of your most difficult experiences with the Church?

How have you been able to find healing after being hurt by someone in the Church?

What is one thing that has helped you stay connected to the Church despite past hurts?

Quick Review:

Was there anything about this week's message that was surprising to you? Was there a specific point or Scripture that made you want to elbow the person sitting next to you? Or maybe made them want to elbow you? What was the one thing you remember most from the message?

Digging Deeper:

What does it mean to forgive like Christ? How can we do this in practice?

How can we avoid confusing the imperfections of the Church with the perfection of Jesus?

How do you respond to the idea that there is not a single example in Scripture of someone having faith, but not engaged in the local church?

Application:

How can we make forgiveness a regular practice in our lives, even outside of Church hurts?

In what ways can we create a culture of grace and forgiveness within our Church community?

What are some tangible steps we can take to re-engage in the family of God after being hurt by someone in the Church?