

## Why Church (part 1)

*I don't need a church to worship God?*

*I don't believe in organized religion?*

*Nature is my sanctuary...*

*Church is full of hypocrites...*

*I like Christ but don't like Christian*

*Hebrews 10:19-25 19Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, 20by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; 24and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.*

What is the church? (Or how do we define it?). The word is ecclesia which means the out (Ecc) called ones (Kaleo): the ones that are called out to be separate. *The church is Gods created, called out, and centered people, who together know Christ and make Him known. (See also Acts 2:42-47)*

### 1

## Deep Discipleship

*Hebrews 13 7Remember your leaders who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.*

Many churches today aren't a safe place to be known or to truly know one another. This starts with our leadership. Often church leaders are placed on a pedestal partly because that's what is expected of them by the congregation and partly because that is what they expect from themselves. Deep discipleship means being deeply known and deeply loved and this is from everyone. This can only come from honest confession / repentance within a safe, gospel community!

### 2

## Team Ministry

*Eph 4: 11And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;*

Most churches are a one man gang, one leader with many helpers. This trickles down to small groups with one leader, areas of ministry with one leader, etc. This often forces the leader trying to be all things to all people at all times. There attached to this is a consumer mentality from the congregation. The following quote helps to capture the essence of why we believe ministry should always be a team.

- *"Many churches today try to choose pastors who, in one way or another, are headline hitters and platform heroes. Eloquence, certain skills, personality, and force are the thing that matter. They are looking for qualities that will make the pastor stand out in the larger Christian scene. The thought is that such a pastor will, on the one hand, be attractive those who are not yet members of the church and, on the other hand, be a leader to the members of the congregation... which makes the congregational themselves stand out as "special". That is the key phrase, I think. They get special wisdom from their special pastor. Being special is the Achilles heel of many churches today. They want to stand out and be noticed. This passion to be seen as special is what drives the choice of pastor and very often it works, at least on a surface level.*
  - J.I. Packer, speaking to the unseen parts of my soul and the soul of so many of us in the evangelical church in America.

Our desire is to do Team Ministry which means equipping the saints for the work of ministry!

### 3 Outward facing family

*Mark 3:14 He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach*

We are a family of God who takes after our Father, who's heart is not just for the family but those lost sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. (John 10:16). We want to intentionally lean into the brokenness of both the people and the place that God has planted us, namely central San Diego. We don't see ministry of word and deed being separate but rather complimentary.

### 4 Biblical Church

*2 Tim 4:2*

In order to get people into the church, the false notion is that to need to lower the bar of expectation, of what God expects His church to be. We compromise as a church in areas like commitment to one another, giving and receiving, evangelism and discipleship, things that God's word has to say about being the church.

To be fair, there are times and ways in which church leaders have used the Bible (like husbands in marriage) for selfish gain in a way that's spiritually hurtful! We always want to be teach with careful instruction and **great patience**. Human abuse doesn't divine negate use. To be loving means we must share both the responsibilities and the blessings of being part of the family. All isn't for the church first but for the glory of God and the joy of His people.

# 5

## Diverse family

*Eph 2*

*Rev 5*

We want to be and reach those who are most around and most like us. We want to take on the demographic of where we live. We want to align where we live work place to where we worship!