

Ekklesia part 1 “Movement!”

Pastor Rick – 4/24/22

From the very beginning, the church has been a movement.

Let’s rethink our thinking about church

The church launched as a movement and continues to be a movement!

Ekklesia: “an assembly, gathering, a movement of people!”

A misunderstanding of the term “church.”

“De Kirche” coined by William Tyndale

It was Tyndale’s attempt to return the New Testament and to return the gathering of God’s people back to what it was meant to be and what it started off as in the first century—a growing, multicultural, multiethnic, a mission-centered movement of people with a very simple message for everyone in the whole world around one single event in history: the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 16:13-18

The church was birthed as a movement of people around a simple message and around a simple idea.

Matthew 28:18-20

Acts 1:6-8

This is one of the most significant prophecies in the entire Bible, because we are in some way a fulfillment of it!

The significance of it was that it was not in a language, it was not for a people—it was multi-national, it was multi-ethnic, it was multi-cultural movement. It was just as Jesus had predicted.

Acts 2:22-24

These first century believers were not simply teaching what Jesus taught. Christianity wasn’t about embracing a teaching; Christianity, from the very outset, was about embracing an event in history.

But for many of you, when you think “church,” what do you think?

Attend church, I haven’t been in church in a while, I need to get back to church. Yeah, I need to find myself a church; I need to get my family in church.

Acts 2:38-39

“and for all who are far off”

Do you know who the “all who are far off” are?

Just like Jesus said, and just like he predicted. And two thousand years later, here we are!

There has always been a group of people that understands that this is a movement that must move!

So, I don't know what comes to your mind or what you feel when you hear the word church, but I hope as a result of today, it may be a little bit different.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Look up the Scriptures mentioned in this message and share your insights and observations.
 - *Acts 1:6-8*
 - *Acts 2:22-24*
 - *Acts 2:38-39*
2. In what ways do you see our church making a difference in our community/world?
3. How can EFC and your small group move away from simply conducting services and hosting gatherings for insiders?
4. Are we “ekklesia” or have we settled for being a “kirche?” Put another way, are churches organized around a mission or are we organized around an outdated ministry model inherited from previous generations?
5. What is one small way you can be on the move toward Jesus and other people He puts in your path this week?