



THE PROBLEM OF CHURCH

THE PROBLEM OF CHURCH: MORE HARM THAN GOOD?

One of the biggest questions or misconceptions about the church is that the church has done more harm than good. Some say, “just do away with God altogether.” In fairness, a lot of evil throughout history has been done in the name of the Church, Jesus, and the Christian God (The Spanish inquisition, elements of the Crusades, the slave trade, war, etc.). However, what if we told you that the church had accomplished more good than bad throughout history? What if we could change how people view the church by returning to “who” the church should be?

Big Idea: The Church is a people, not a place or political position.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do your friends or coworkers think about church? If they are part of a church, what keeps them engaged? If they aren't part of a church, what keeps them away?
2. With your Bible or Bible App, **read 1 Peter 2:4-12**
3. Who is the ‘living stone’ mentioned in verse 4? What are some of the different responses to the living stone that we see?
4. In verse 5, what does Peter say believers are to be? What exactly is a spiritual sacrifice?
5. What is the cornerstone mentioned in verse 6? What will happen to those that believe in the cornerstone? What will happen to those who reject the cornerstone? (v. 7)
6. What does Peter mean when he writes that the cornerstone will cause some people to stumble? (v. 7). Why do people stumble over the church more than they stumble over Jesus?
7. What are the four major descriptions Peter uses for believers in verse 9? Elaborate a little bit on what each of these terms means for our church.
8. Verse 10 says that once we had not received mercy, but now we have. How does your life before Christ compare to your life after salvation? What are the major changes the Lord has brought about in your life? What are some ways He is growing you right now?
9. What does it mean to “live properly among your unbelieving neighbors”? (v.12)
10. What does it mean to be God's people? This week, how can we help change the narrative about the church?