

Sunday Sermon Guide

Central Baptist Church - Crockett, Texas

September 13, 2026 - Church Culture: More Than a Sunday Seat

Main Passage: Acts 2:37-47

Main Idea:

Church culture begins when the Gospel changes people, and it grows as changed people devote themselves to Christ and to one another.

1) Gospel Truth Defines Church Culture (Acts 2:37-41)

Supporting Scriptures: *Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Ephesians 2:8-10*

- The early church began with Jesus Christ crucified, risen, ascended, and reigning - not buildings, programs, personalities, or preferences.
- The Gospel confronts sin, calls us to repentance and faith, and creates the changed people through whom biblical church culture grows.

2) Devotion, Not Casual Attendance, Builds Church Culture (Acts 2:42)

Supporting Scriptures: *Hebrews 10:24-25; Colossians 3:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:17*

- The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, shared meals, and prayer.
- A Sunday seat says, "I came." Devotion says, "I belong." What we repeat becomes the culture we build.

3) Church Culture Is Family, Not a Crowd (Acts 2:43-46)

Supporting Scriptures: *John 13:34-35; Galatians 6:2; Hebrews 13:16*

- Grace loosened their grip on possessions, and their sacrificial generosity met genuine needs in the church family.
- A healthy church family loves, prays, encourages, corrects, bears burdens, and refuses to leave people alone in times of trouble.

4) Church Culture Is a Witness to the World (Acts 2:46-47)

Supporting Scriptures: *Matthew 5:14-16; John 13:35; Acts 1:8*

- Church culture does not save; Christ saves through the Gospel. The Lord used His people's witness and shared life to make His grace visible.
- We cannot manufacture salvation, but we can preach, pray, love, invite, welcome, and make room for people who need Jesus.

Takeaways

- The Gospel - not our preferences - is the foundation of a healthy church culture.
- Changed people devote themselves to Scripture, fellowship, shared worship, and prayer.
- The church is a family that carries burdens, meets needs, and refuses to leave people alone.
- Our shared life should make the grace of Jesus visible to a watching world.
- God saves; we faithfully preach, pray, invite, welcome, and make room.

Questions for Reflection

1. What does the pattern of my week reveal that I am truly devoted to?
2. Am I participating in church as a member of a family, or only consuming a Sunday service?
3. Whose burden can I help carry, and whose need can I help meet this week?
4. What attitude or habit am I helping Central celebrate, normalize, and repeat?
5. Whom will I personally invite and warmly welcome next Sunday?

Bottom Line

The Gospel changes people, and changed people devote themselves to Christ and to one another.

"The church is not a building you visit, a service you attend, or a crowd you disappear into. It is the family Jesus bought with His blood."

"A Sunday seat says, 'I came.' Devotion says, 'I belong.'"