

# — BE THE — CHURCH

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1. We are to be a CONDUIT, not a cul-de-sac.

<sup>18b</sup> I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.  
— Matthew 16:18b

2. Our mission: Develop lifelong followers of JESUS.

<sup>19a</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... — Matthew 28:19a

3. Our calling: Love GOD and love PEOPLE.

<sup>37</sup> And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”  
— Matthew 22:37-40

4. WE value people, because HE values people.

Every soul matters to God.

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. — John 3:16

<sup>3</sup> This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. — 1 Timothy 2:3-4

5. Church is not a PLACE but a PEOPLE.

<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.  
— 1 Corinthians 12:27

6. The church are people who EXPERIENCE,  
LIVE, and SHARE life.

7. Challenge: ENGAGE, INVEST, INVITE.

Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures are from the English Standard Version (ESV).

## DIGGING DEEPER

### ROMANS 12:4-18

- How is the Church like a body (v. 4-5)? How should we expect the Church to look and behave?
- What does it mean that the members of the body “belong to one another” (v. 5)? How does that idea affect how you view and treat other believers?
- How do we get spiritual gifts (v. 6a)? What are some of the spiritual gifts listed in this passage and what does God call us to do with our spiritual gifts (v. 6b-8)?
- What does it mean to love without hypocrisy (v. 9-10)? What do you think loving one another should look like within the church?
- Jesus said that people should recognize us as disciples of Jesus by the love we have for one another (John 13:35). How can our love be recognized by others as pointing to Jesus? What distinguishes our love as Christ followers from the kind of love shown by the rest of the world?
- What attitude should we have as we serve God (v. 11)? Is this your natural attitude toward serving or does this take some effort?
- How should Christ followers respond to the ups and downs of life (v. 12)? How should the church (other believers) be helping us through both the good times and the bad (v. 13 and 1 Thessalonians 5:11)?
- How do the commands that Paul is giving to the church in verses 14-18 reflect how Jesus lived? How does living out these commands honor God and how can it help bring more people to Jesus Christ?

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