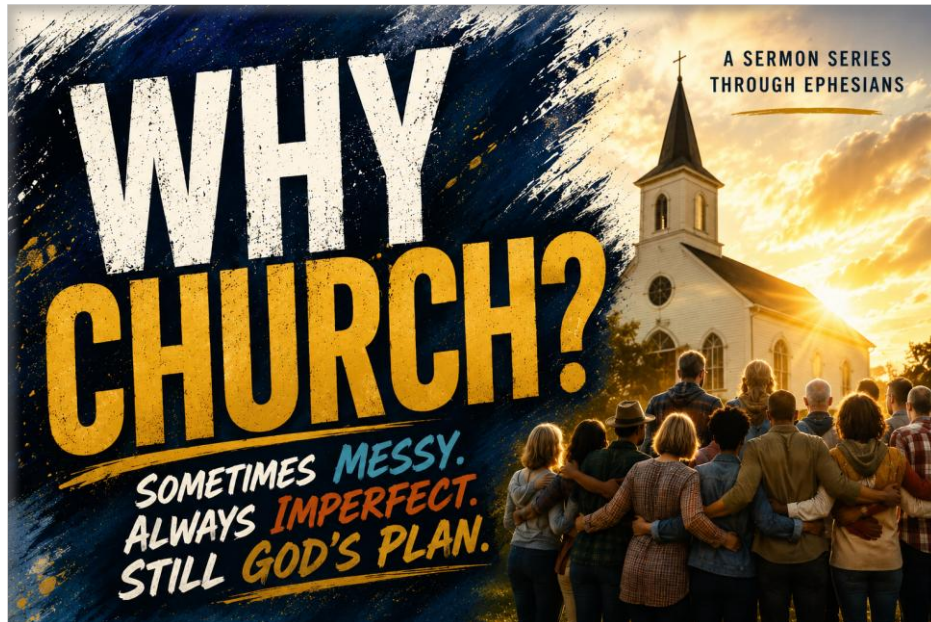




Hope for the Weak, Uncertain, and Empty Ephesians 3:14-21

I'd like you to consider with me a question you probably hear every week: "How are you?" Most of us just respond: "Fine." "Doing well." But sometimes the answer we give doesn't tell the whole story.

Maybe the real answer sounds more like this: "I'm tired, and I don't know how much longer I can keep this up."

“I have questions I’m almost afraid to say out loud.”

“I’m doing everything I usually do, but I feel empty inside.”

Maybe one of those answers sounds familiar. As we ask, “Why Church?” here’s something worth considering: Is there room in the church for answers like these?

In Ephesians 3, Paul prays for the church. He prays for strength, for a deeper knowledge of Christ’s love, and for the fullness of God.

Today, we’ll hear his prayer as three invitations:
To come with your weakness.
To come with your uncertainty.
To come with your emptiness.

Come with your weakness—He welcomes you (Verses 14-16).

Come with your uncertainty—He understands you (Verses 17-19a).

Come with your emptiness—He meets you (19b).

***God** is able to do beyond what we ask or imagine. We can trust him in the waiting. **So, how are you—really?** Tell God honestly. Then tell someone you trust. And if someone tells you, listen. Pray. Stay beside them. Why church? Because together we grow in Christ's love. And when holding on feels hard, we help one another to keep holding on.*