

The Revolutionary Disciple (Week 3)

September 27th, 2026

“Design of the Church”

BIG Idea

A revolutionary disciple follows Jesus back to God’s original design. In the church sphere, that means understanding that the church is not a building — the church is God’s people, with Christ as the Head.

1. The Church Is Not a Building

When we hear “*church*,” we often think of a place we go. But Jesus described the church as His people.

Matthew 16:18 “*On this rock I will build my church...*”

Jesus is building His church on the truth of the gospel. The church is made up of disciples who follow Him and live on mission.

Matthew 28:19–20

The mission of the church is the Great Commission: “*Go therefore and make disciples...*”

A building cannot make disciples, but a people surrendered to Jesus can.

2. Christ Is the Head of the Church

Ephesians 5:23–24 Christ is the head of the church.

1 Corinthians 12:12–17 The church is one body with many members.

Like a physical head leads a physical body, Jesus leads, directs, protects, and cares for His church. He knows what is coming, and He guides His people.

Because Christ is the Head, He gets to design the church. The church belongs to Him, not us.

3. Every Believer Has a Role

If you are a believer, God has given you a spiritual gift. The body of Christ needs you.

You are not called to sit on the sidelines. *You are called to serve, love, encourage, and build up the church.*

“*Only one life will soon be past. Only what’s done for Christ will last.*” — C.T. Studd

4. What Should the Church Look Like?

Acts 2:42–47: The early church gives us a picture of Christ’s design.

They were devoted to:

- The apostles’ teaching; fellowship; breaking bread; prayer; unity; generosity; gathering; worship

From this passage, we see three key marks of the church:

1. **Teaching Truth:** The church must be centered on God’s Word, not personal opinions.

2. **Unity and Service:** The church fights for unity and serves one another with humility and love.
 3. **Gathering and Worship:** The church gathers regularly to worship, pray, learn, encourage, and glorify God.
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5. Two Practical Responses

1. Strive for Unity

John 17:21: Jesus prayed that His people would be one, just as He and the Father are one. The world should see our unity and recognize that it comes from God.

2. Use Your Gift

1 Peter 4:10–11: Each believer has received a gift to serve others. The church needs every part of the body working together for God's glory.

Closing Thought

- The church is not somewhere we go. The church is who we are.
 - Christ is the Head. We are His body. So let's be the church.
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For Group Discussion:

Ice Breaker

If you could witness any event (past, present, or future)— what would it be?

Questions to Discuss:

1. Sermon Reflection

What from the sermon are you still mulling over, responding to, or questioning?

2. What Is the Church?

Read **Ephesians 3:15**, **Ephesians 5:23**, and **Acts 2:42–47**. What do each of these passages tell you about the church?

Follow-up:

What do you see happening in **Acts 2:42–47**?

3. Why Does Church Involvement Matter?

What are some reasons that involvement with fellow believers and the activities of the church are important?

Follow-up A:

What kind of relationship or involvement do you currently have with fellow believers?

Follow-up B:

In what ways are you part of the environments and activities of the church?