

## **You are the church**

### **Romans 12:4-5 (NIV)**

<sup>4</sup> For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

**Distance creates distortion.**

**What comes to mind when I say the word CHURCH?**

Church isn't:

- Building or Institution
- Place I go to
- Event I attend

Church is a people- It's a spiritual family I belong to - the most important group on earth.

### **John 21:15-17 (NIV)**

<sup>15</sup> When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

<sup>16</sup> Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

<sup>17</sup> The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

We need a DEEPER understanding of

- God's heart
- God's purposes for us
- God's plan for our lives -THE CHURCH

## **You are the church**

**POINT 1 – THE CHURCH - Jesus died for it**

### **Gen 2:18 (NIV)**

18 The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

We're created for connection, community + commitment to one another and God

**How do you determine the value of something - Buy seeing what someone's willing paying for it**

The value of the church is invaluable to him – that's why he gave up his Son.

Heaven was bankrupt for you - Jesus died for the church.

## **You are the church**

He didn't die for a country, a gender, a program, a building – he died for his church, for us, people

**Ephesians 5:25-27 (NCV)**

25 ...Christ loved the church and gave himself for it 26 to make it belong to God. 27 He died so that he could give the church to himself like a bride in all her beauty. He died so that the church could be pure and without fault, with no evil or sin or any other wrong thing in it.

**If it was worth Jesus's death – it's worth our time!**

**If it was worth him dying for – it's worth us living for!**

**Hebrews 10:25 (NLT)**

25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

**Proverbs 18:1 (NLT)**

18 He who stays away from others cares only about himself. He argues against all good wisdom.

**POINT 2 – THE CHURCH - We're called to be it**

Church is a group of people – not a building

**Ephesians 2:19-22 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup>So then you are no longer strangers and aliens,<sup>[a]</sup> but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup>built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup>in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup>In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by<sup>[b]</sup> the Spirit.

**Ephesians 1:5 (NLT)**

5 God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

**In New Testament it say's "ONE ANOTHER" 100+ times**

**Believers are never told to become one; we already are one and are expected to act like it.**

*- Joni Eareckson Tada*

**Romans 12:4-5 (NIV)**

<sup>4</sup>For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

We all have different parts but are one body united by Holy Spirit.

Maybe you're still discovering what your role is? We are all on a journey - **Even if it doesn't make sense – just keep coming!**

Have you ever seen an arm walking down the street solo? That's not a body – that's called a crime scene.

I can tell you it's not going to be able to do much. We need each other – stick together.

**You can't reach your highest potential alone. God's ordained people to help you in your walk**

Yes – best preaching online, best worship

Nothing beats the local church – community, care, support

**If we're divided, we're ineffective**

**When we're united, we're unstoppable in what we can do for the glory of God.**

### **You are the church**

The church is not supposed to be known for its signers, speakers or songs; it's supposed to be known for its LOVE!

### **POINT 3 – THE CHURCH - The world needs it**

#### **Matthew 5:16 (NIV)**

*"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven"*

#### **Luke 10:19 (NIV)**

19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

#### **Matthew 28:19 (ESV)**

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

#### **Matthew 10:8 (ESV)**

8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers,[a] cast out demons.

#### **Ephesians 3:10-11 (NLT)**

10 God's purpose in all this was to use the church **You are the church** to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

**Imagine being stranded on a desert island with a small group of people – if you found water the loving thing to do would be to tell the others.**

In the same way – we know so many people burdened by sin, struggling with fear, searching for love – we have the answer to the world's problems – JESUS.

- Highest suicide rates in 10 years – for every death by suicide 30 other people attempt
- High levels of depression, anxiety, domestic violence – people searching
- Recent article VicHealth stated that we are currently facing a loneliness epidemic.
- One study went as far as to say that loneliness is as bad for your health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day!

Scientists are catching up with the what the Bible says - God said "it's not good for man to be alone"

#### **Matthew 11:28-30**

"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest."

You don't have to take a missions trip to be on mission – there's people you go past everyday who need Jesus

- People are hurting / we have the answer
- People are lonely / we have the answer
- People are in need of help / we have the answer
- People are heading in a bad direction / we have the answer

"The greatest disease in the West today is not TB or leprosy; it is being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for. We can cure physical diseases with medicine, but the only cure for loneliness, despair, and hopelessness is love. There are many in the world who are dying for a piece of bread but there are many more dying for a little love. The poverty in the West is a different kind of poverty -- it is not only a poverty of loneliness but also of spirituality. There's a hunger for love, as there is a hunger for God."

— Mother Teresa

**You are the church** that the world needs