

Message Notes The Church.

Introduction – “Reasons NOT go to church”

This week’s question:

“What role should the church play in a believer’s life (generally) or Hope Community play in my life (specifically)?”

Focus Passage: Ephesians 3:10-11

Three Big Questions:

What’s the point of the church?

Matthew 16:18, 18:17

Ephesians 3:10-11

What is the Universal Church?

What is a local church?

What makes up a local church?

Six Elements

1. Scriptural Authority

1 Timothy 3:14-15

2. Corporate Worship

1 Corinthians 11:17-22

3. Covenanted Community

Acts 2:42-47

4. Biblical Leadership

Titus 1:5

5. Mission

John 20:21

6. Baptism and the Lord’s Supper

Matthew 28:18-20, Luke 22:19-20,

1 Corinthians 11:26

How are we to engage in church?

Gospel Application – “What’s your place in the church?”

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Matthew 16:18

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Matthew 18:17

¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

Ephesians 3:10-11

¹⁰His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Timothy 3:15

¹⁵if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

Acts 2:42-47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

John 20:21

Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Luke 22:19-20

¹⁹And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁰In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.”

1 Corinthians 11:26

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

For Further Study

Books

Church, Why Bother? by Philip Yancy – a great book if you are struggling with the purpose of church and find your involvement to be joyless and only dutiful.

9 Marks of a Healthy Church by Mark Dever – If you are looking for a book that will explain what a healthy church is meant to look like, begin with Mark Dever’s *9 Marks of a Healthy Church*.

The Deliberate Church by Mark Dever & Paul Alexander – The Deliberate Church is an excellent follow-up to *9 Marks of a Healthy Church*.

The Trellis and the Vine by Collin Marshall and Tony Payne – The simple metaphor of a trellis and a vine helps pastors and ministry leaders understand how to distinguish between ministering to people and the structure that supports this ministry.

Churches Partnering Together by Chris Bruno & Matt Dirks – This book calls on Christians and churches to learn to work together in ministry partnerships.

Articles:

What is the Church? By R.C. Sproul – an excellent place to begin your understanding of the church of Jesus Christ (<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/what-church/>)

What Is This Thing Called Church by Bernard Howard – a clear call to the purpose of the church coming from a Jewish believer in Jesus Christ. (<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/what-is-this-thing-called-church/>)

Why Attending Church No Longer Makes Sense by Carey Nieuwhof – a call to be part of the church for those who trust Christ, but struggle with church. (<https://careynieuwhof.com/why-attending-church-no-longer-makes-sense/>)