

Early Christians Said:

Church is something we are, not something we go to.

1 Corinthians 12:7-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 1 John 2:3-5

Today Some Say:

Church is a once a week concert & lecture

James 2:19, Matthew 5:13, 1 John 1:5-7, Hebrews 10:24-25

Three Key Ingredients to spiritual growth:

The HOLY SPIRIT provides power and motivation.

Philippians 2:13

The BIBLE provides guidance and perspective.

2 Peter 1:2-11, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Psalm 119:105

OTHER CHRISTIANS (community) provide support and accountability.

Hebrews 10:24-25

Small groups & significant relationships will *radically change you and the church...*

By dramatically increasing honesty and transparency.

Ephesians 4:15 & 25/ James 5:16

By making spiritual practices (habits) a priority.

Hebrews 10:24-25

By creating connected relationships – Legos.

Colossians 3:15-17, Proverbs 27:17, Proverbs 12:1

We all need support and accountability.

NEXT STEPS

Use these study questions to turn a message into a conversation. Join with a life group and continue to grow by using these study questions this week.

MY STORY

What has been your idea and attitude about church? What experiences have influenced you—good and bad?

What would community (church) look like if you could create it from scratch?

GOING DEEPER

The biblical concept of “church” is as much about connecting with and serving others as it is about gaining biblical knowledge. Here are six passages from the book of Romans. For each verse, jot down the instruction for how we are to do and be the church.

Romans 12:10

Romans 12:16

Romans 13:8

Romans 14:13

Romans 15:7

Romans 15:14

Why do you think so many Christians settle for a concept of church that is nothing more than a weekly concert and lecture? And what specific changes in attitude, action or perspective are necessary in order to move from just attending church to being in significant, life-changing relationships? List as many as you can think of.

One characteristic of a healthy community (church) is how we interact with each other. A top of priority in community is harmony and unity. ***“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” Ephesians 4:3.***

What do these verses tell us about unity/disunity and what can we do to develop and protect unity in the community?

II Timothy 2:14

Proverbs 17:14

I Peter 3:8

II Timothy 2:23

Colossians 3:13-15

TAKING IT HOME

One of the best ways to foster spiritual growth is to stick tight to God's Word and other Christians. At this point in your spiritual journey, is there a specific action step you could take or discipline you could begin in order to take advantage of this truth?

PRAYER REQUESTS