

See the World Part 2 – “The Church”

March 11, 2018

Can a person be a good Christian without being part of the church?

What is a good Christian?

What is the church?

Matthew 16:16-18

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. 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.

church: gathering, assembly or citizenry

What began as a mission became an institution.

“Our form of government has no sense unless it is founded in a deeply-felt religious faith, and I don't care what it is. With us of course it is the Judeo-Christian concept, but it must be a religion with all men are created equal.” – Dwight Eisenhower
(blank)

“Only a marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California.”

John 17:6-11

“I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

John 17:11

I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you.

John 17:9

I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.

- The church rejects both assimilation and separation. We love people and live distinctly.

John 17:7-8

Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they **accepted** them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

- The church is distinct because we **accept** Jesus' words.

John 17:10

All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through **them**.

John 17:6

They were yours; you gave them to me and they have **obeyed** your word.

John 17:11

I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. **Holy Father**, protect them by the power of your name

- A good Christian is someone who **trusts** in Jesus. That changes the way you see the world.

Groups

1. What was your church experience as a child? Did you think of church as a place or a people? How do you think that influences the way you viewed God?
2. Why do you think our culture views the church as being unnecessary today?
3. Why do you think societal morals are evolving so rapidly?
4. In John 17:9, Jesus said that Christians are God's. What does that mean? Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.
5. How can you know if you're striking the fine line between assimilating into vs. separating from the culture around us?
6. Read John 17:10. How does the church bring glory to Jesus?
7. Can a person be a good Christian without being engaged with the church?