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Women's Activities Text "1" to #208.203.1777

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"unBelievable Church"

1. What is God's Design for the Church?

- a. **First mention:** "church" = **ekklesia**, "an assembly" or "called-out ones."

Matthew 16:18(NIV) "On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."

- i. The church is God's idea and He gets to define what it looks like.
- b. You don't go to church. You are the church.
 - i. Matthew 16:16 "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God"
- c. **Universal church**

Ephesians 1:22-23 (NIV) "And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way."

- i. All believers regardless of age, geography, denomination: **only one church**
- d. **Local church**

Galatians 1:1-2 (NIV) "Paul, an apostle [...] To the churches in Galatia"

- i. There are local gatherings of believers.

Romans 16:5 (NIV) "Greet also the church that meets at their house."

- ii. Note: The church is not the building (house); it's the people.

2. What is the church to look like?

Acts 2:42 - 47 (NIV) "42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

- a. **"Baptized"** - They all stepped across the line publically
 1. This is why we do **baptisms**
- ii. **Multi-ethnic**
 1. Church wasn't designed to be segregated
- iii. **Full of broken people**

1 Cor. 6:9-11 (NIV) "Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."

1. This is why we do **Regen** - Tuesday nights @ 6:15pm
- b. **"Devoted"**
 - i. "(proskartereó). It means "to devote oneself to, to persist in, to continue steadfastly in" (Strong's Greek)
- c. **"Apostles teaching"**
 - i. This is first, because the apostles taught and lived out what Jesus said
 1. This is why we have **sermons, youth group, and life group**
- d. **"Fellowship"**

- i. “Koinonia” - shared lives... more than just events
- ii. United in purpose - “To reach the world for Jesus”

1 Thessalonians 2:8 (NIV) “[...] so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.”

- iii. This is why we encourage you to be in **life group, serve** and... **cafe**.
- e. **“Breaking of bread”**
 - i. This is why we do **communion** every week.
- f. **“Prayer”**
 - i. This is why: **1st Saturday, before service, directed prayer, prayer people**
- g. **“Everything in common”; “To give to anyone who had need”**
 - i. This is why: **life groups** and **community assistance**
- h. **“Meet together”**
 - i. This is why we do **life group**.
- i. **“Ate together”**
 - i. This is why we do **life group** and often **share meals**.
- j. **“Praising God”**

Colossians 3:16 (NIV) “Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.”

- k. **“And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”**

3. Two Common Questions

- a. **Why do some Christians behave so badly?**
 - i. **Answer:** Some from **ignorance** and some from **willful sin**
 - 1. You will be hurt in the church. People are going to let you down.
 - ii. **So what should you do?**
 - 1. Adopt a godly attitude & Begin with yourself
 - 2. Confront constructively & Deal with the real hurt
 - 3. Entrust the end results to God & Forgive as God has forgiven you
- b. **Why hasn't my life been radically changed by attending church?**
 - i. **Answer:** Are you living out God's design for church?

Small Group Discussion Questions:

Icebreaker: If you had to compare your current experience of church to a sport, what sport would it be and why?

Head Level: (KNOW – What does the Word say?)

- 1. How is the “Church” first defined in the New Testament (e.g., Matthew 16:18, Acts 2)?
- 2. Read Acts 2:41-47. What does the first church model in this passage that shows God's design for how He wants His church to function?

Heart Level: (BELIEVE – What do I believe about this?)

- 1. Do you truly believe you are the Church—not just a part of it on Sundays, but every day?
Follow-up: What makes that difficult to believe or live out?
- 2. When have you been hurt by the Church or seen others hurt? How has that shaped your faith?
Follow-up: Are there places in your heart that still need healing or forgiveness?

Hands & Feet Level: (APPLY – How do I live this out?)

- 1. Who in your group, church, or community might need something you can give (time, prayer, a meal, encouragement)?
- 2. Challenging: Our lives are not transformed in church by simply being spectators. Has God put anything on your heart to do as an action step to take?



Sample Small Group Questions
<https://bit.ly/GroupDiscussionQuestions>



The Overtime Podcast
bit.ly/ROvertime



Series Resources
bit.ly/RLcurrentseries