

REVIEW

The series is walking through questions that cause people to doubt or dismiss God

Review:

- Believable God
- Believable Bible
- Believable Resurrection

This week: Believable church**Many people dismiss God, the Bible, the resurrection because of unbelievable people –His church**

- Is this fair to God? No!! Will He accept that excuse on judgement day? No!!
- Some believe the events didn't happen and because of their experience see the rest as unbelievable
- Some people believe that it may be true but it's a story about how God used to work and He isn't as involved today

The truth –Most people have never really truly experienced the Lord's church (Christianity)

- They have experienced church (not His)
- Many didn't actually leave "the faith" because they were actually never in it
- Maybe they did for a while, or intermittently, but not consistently
- Many have bought the lie that they are better without it – "Jesus and I are just fine"

The Lord's church is the Lord's idea

- Jesus came to build a new community beyond the Old Testament one
- The Old (Testament) system made the way for a better one
- The New Testament reveals what Jesus meant by His form of His gospel, discipleship, His church
- Not centered in Jerusalem but that would spread throughout the whole world
- Acts 2 is the beginning

Matthew 16:15–21 (NIV) 15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. 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. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." 20 Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. 21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

Matthew 28:18–20 (NIV) 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

What does His church look like?

Acts 2:36–46 (NIV) 36 “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.” 37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” 38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” 40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” 41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. 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,

1. **Leaders (ordinary—unschooled—devoted leaders)**
2. **People who follow the churches’ leaders where they speak from God’s given directions**
3. **Scripture sets the tone – a way to understand them that creates unity**
4. **Fellowship – the habits of fellowship**
5. **Communion**
6. **Prayer together**
7. **Giving – individual generosity and shared generosity**
8. **Ministering to the needs of the hurting within the church and in the community**
9. **Raising up leaders who raise up leaders who create new communities**

I am asking you to commit to the Lord’s version of being the church. What does that mean?

- Are you committed to the above?
- Which one are you skipping or lagging in? Why?
- My concern this summer for believers... Neglecting habits of being the church.



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



The Overtime Podcast
bit.ly/RLovertime



Series Resources
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