

“This Is Who We Are”

Sermon: This Is Who We Are

- Jesus said, “I will build My church” (Matthew 16:18)
- What is Jesus’ church supposed to look like?
- Acts 2:42-47 the first expression and foundation of His church.

Scripture gives us four pictures of what Jesus' church is supposed to be.

- Ephesians paints us all four — **Family, Temple, Body, & Bride**

Together they show us what it means to be Jesus' church according to His building plans:

- we belong to one another
- we live for God and offer sacrifices to Him
- we contribute and function together
- we love Him, are committed to Him, and invite others to do the same

If we are going to be Jesus’ church, then it requires us to be the... FAMILY of God

- **Think:** I belong.
- **Not:** I’m alone.

Ephesians 2:19 (NLT) “So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God’s holy people. You are members of God’s family.”

Question: Who are you doing life (and faith) with?

If we are going to be Jesus’ church, then it requires us to be the... TEMPLE of God

- **Think:** I sacrifice.
- **Not:** I consume.

Ephesians 2:20-22 (NLT) “Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. ²¹ We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. ²² Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.”

Question: How am I living (and sacrificing) for God?

If we are going to be Jesus’ church, then it requires us to be the... BODY of Christ

- **Think:** I contribute.
- **Not:** I can’t.

Ephesians 4:11-12 (NLT) “Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹² Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.”

Question: What is my role?

If we are going to be Jesus' church, then it requires us to be the... BRIDE of Christ

- **Think:** I love.
- **Not:** I'm indifferent.

Ephesians 5:25-27 (NLT) "For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her ²⁶ to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. ²⁷ He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault."

Question: Who else needs to know Jesus?

At Real Life Ministries, we've tried to build our church around these priorities of Jesus:

- **Our Vision:** Reach the world for Jesus one person at a time.
- **Our Mission:** Make biblical disciples in relational environments.
- **Our Process:** Make disciples who make disciples of Jesus.

So what does that look like for us?

As the FAMILY of God, we belong — That's why we emphasize **relational environments**—not simply attending a church service.

- Question: Who am I doing life (and faith) with?

As the TEMPLE of God, we sacrifice — That's why we emphasize **generosity, worship, and serving**—not being served.

- Question: How am I living (and sacrificing) for God?

As the BODY of Christ, we contribute — That's why we emphasize **every person making disciples**—not a few paid professionals doing it all.

- Question: What's my role?

As the BRIDE of Christ, we love — That's why our vision is to **reach the world for Jesus one person at a time**—not being indifferent to others lives and futures.

- Question: Who else needs to know Jesus?

