

EKKLESIA STUDY #1: WE DON'T ALWAYS GET IT RIGHT

"Recapturing Jesus' Vision for His Church"

When drive (church/work/levi) reg route - AUTOPILOT – follow ppl thru lights regardless color, don't remember route (AUTOPILOT - GOING THROUGH MOTIONS)

- CHURCH a lot of churches/Christians on Autopilot – Go through motions

What is this? What's my part supposed to be? Are we doing what Jesus wants us to do?

It gets messy, we make mistakes, mission drift, caught up in latest ideas/gimmicks, sidetracked issues/agendas, religious power structures, worldly culture, **bad decisions**

- THE TRUTH IS WE DON'T ALWAYS GET IT RIGHT – WE HAVE TO ASK - alltm

Purpose: The purpose of this summer series is to recapture the vision that Jesus has for His church.

Diversities in the church are beautiful; departures from Christ's vision for the church are not.

6 WAYS WE GET THE CHURCH WRONG – WEIGH AGAINST HIS VISION

Ekklesia: kaleo – to call out – assembly, gathering, in the sense of community

The church is the community of Christ's people which he calls into being in and around himself, who live by faith in God's Word, in loving relationship with one another, and as empowered witnesses for the gospel to the unbelieving world.

THE CHURCH IS CHRIST'S CREATION NOT MAN'S

Matthew 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

- Jesus at the center – REVIEW STATEMENT - JESUS IS THE ROCK (gospel)
- Jesus is the builder – He died for his church to build his church

Ephesians 5:25 just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church

(1) We get it wrong when we think of the church as a religious institution with man-made rules governed by a religious power structure. it is organized and it does have spiritual leadership – but the organization doesn't save or control, leaders supposed to serve, this isn't about rules to follow **its about JESUS**

THE CHURCH IS GAINED BY A LIVING FAITH IN THE GOSPEL

A gift to be gained – a privilege to participate – a treasure in the heart of God.

- To be in - u must be born again – CLASSIC WORDS to A RELGIONIST (**pastor**)

John 3:3 Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.

- FAITH IN CHRIST – **incarnation, perfection, death, resurrection - BELIEVE**
 - **KEY:** orthodox essentials for all true CHRISTIANS – **living relationship**
 - **CONTENT/COMMITMENT/CONVERSION** – something really happens

(2) We get it wrong when we reduce the church to a building, or a place.

- bldg one place where dead people come to life (sacred bc God is among ppl)

Just because you go to a church doesn't mean you are part of God's church.

- RADICAL SHIFT to God's truth – not our ideas, philosophies, how raised,

John 4:23-24 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

(3) We get it wrong when we come to be entertained instead of coming to worship.

(4) We get it wrong when we think of truth as up for grabs. It's God's truth

THE CHURCH IS A COMMUNITY THAT LIVES IN LOVING RELATIONSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER

John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” **ONE ANOTHER IS A RECIPROCAL PRONOUN**

- **COMMUNITY – RELATIONSHIP / INTERDEPENDENCE / SHARED PURPOSE**

Radical individualism is one of the greatest threats to Biblical community.

Church in America is like going to a convenience store – pastors/programs are the vendors people are the customers or consumers

(5) We get it wrong when we adopt the world's culture instead of creating Biblical culture.

- Not consumerism: **it's not about you. 1. GOD 2. OTHERS 3. YOU**

Not culture warriors, not corporate America, not driven by secular values,

THE CHURCH LIVES TO WITNESS TO THE UNBELIEVING WORLD

Matthew 28:18-20 All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you

(6) We get it wrong when we fail to prioritize reaching lost souls.

QUESTIONNAIRE – not mean or nice – HONEST / MATERIAL BECOME PART SERIES