

**God
loves
His
church**



Church- ek-klay-see'-ah

The gathering or community of Christian believers, called out of our old worldly way of living to follow Jesus together.

We are in the world, but not of the world.



Church is not a
place...it is a
community of
believers



Matthew 16

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

¹⁴ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

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.”

Jesus' plan for His church:

The church is all about who Jesus is

To be part of the church body, Jesus needs to become real to you

Saved people are who make up the church

Jesus builds the church, Christians just help

The church is the divine force against evil in this world

As individual believers we enforce God's will on earth

Matthew 18

15 “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. 16 But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ 17 If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector (**still loving them but not including them in the closer things of the Christian community**).

18 “Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven (**enforce what is unlawful in heaven within the community of believers**), and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

19 “Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. (**prayer within the church**) 20 For where two or three gather in my name, (**the gathering of Christians**) there am I with them.”

Early church

Acts 2

When the day of Pentecost came, they (**the believers**) were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken.

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:

22 “Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. 23 This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men,[\[d\]](#) put him to death by nailing him to the cross. 24 But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. 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.”

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... And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Life Worth Living Church's Identity

F.A.T.

Faithful - committed, devoted, dedicated, consistent, quality, fighting through obstacles and suffering, learning victorious living

Available - willing, generous with time-money-talents-resources, saying 'yes' more often than 'no', willing to be interrupted

Teachable - humble, hungry to learn, moldable, constantly improving, visible spiritual and personal growth

Life Worth Living Church's **Mission**

Joining God to build His church
(developing individual lives)

Mid-week discussion questions

Read Matthew 16:13-19. What is the meaning of church according to Jesus?

Read Acts 2:42-43. What did the early church look like?

How would you describe the identity of Life Worth Living Church? If you are willing, text Pastor Steve and Tina with your thoughts at 915.308.3419.
