



LOCAL CHURCH | PT.4 PROBLEMS | PASTOR RYAN ROBERTS

WE ARE LOOKING AT THE BIBLE TO DEFINE “CHURCH”  
AND NOT RELIGIOSITY NOR FLESHLY TERMS.

**EPHESIANS 1:21-23**

**THE BIBLE'S DEFINITION OF CHURCH**

IN THE BIBLE, THE **CHURCH IS DEFINED AS ONE INTITY,**  
**WITH MULTIPLE PURPOSES... AND BRANCHES**

**CHURCH: “Ekklesia” (Greek: ἐκκλησία): “assembly” or  
“gathering.”**

**A BIG DEAL OF CHURCH IS FELLOWSHIP:**

**ACTS 2:42**

**FELLOWSHIP “koinonia” (κοινωνία) originates from the  
Greek language, carrying the core idea of shared  
participation, mutual association, and fellowship.**

## ***Koinonia places a practical call on followers to cultivate fellowship through:***

1. **CARE:** Encouraging, praying for, and mentoring one another. Paul speaks of “building each other up” in passages such as 1 Thessalonians 5:11.

2. **SUPPORT:** Assisting and helping each other (Romans 12:13).

3. **ACCOUNTABILITY:** Genuine fellowship gently corrects and restores members who stray (Galatians 6:1-2).

## **THE LOCAL CHURCH SHOULD BE:**

-a place of faith talk, not stinking thinking

-a place of belonging and hope, not divisive religious fluff

-a place to grow, not stay sidelined

## **CHURCH IS IMPORTANT**

**IT'S TRUE:** “CHURCH” CANNOT AND DOES NOT SAVE ANYONE. BUT “CHURCH” IS GOD’S PLAN TO SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST, HIS FULL GOSPEL, WHICH POINTS TO JESUS AS THE ONE AND ONLY SAVIOR AND MEANS FOR SALVATION. AND IS A MEANS FOR THE FELLOWSHIP OF OTHER BELIEVERS.

## **HEB 10:19-25**

IF WE ARE TO HAVE A **REAL CONVERSATION** ABOUT CHURCH, THEN WE MUST BE WILLING TO SPEAK ON THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE UGLY, IN HOPES OF FINDING **GRACE, FORGIVENESS, REDEMPTION, COMMUNITY, ZEAL, GLORY, REVIVAL.**

**THE CHURCH IS MADE UP OF IMPERFECT PEOPLE, TO SERVE AND LOVE A VERY PERFECT GOD.**

**WHEN CHURCH BECOMES ABOUT THE WORLDLY DESIRES OF THE PEOPLE: IT HAS FAILED TO SUBMIT TO THE HOLY SPIRIT, REMOVING ITS POWER AND CONSTRAINING ITS WITNESS.... AND INSTEAD BECOMES A RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION THAT OFTEN CAUSES HURT THROUGH ABUSIVE PRACTICES AND POOR LEADERSHIP.**

**ALL OF US HAVE EXPERIENCED CHURCH HURT. SOME HAVE EXPERIENCED OUTRIGHT ABUSE.**

**SOME HURT IS ON PURPOSE, AND SOME PERHAPS NOT... BELIEVERS MUST STOP TRYING TO TURN CHURCH INTO RELIGION OR TRADITION, AS WELL AS STOP TRYING TO TURN IT INTO A FREE-FOR-ALL, EXUSE TO SIN PARTY.**

**JOHN 13:31-35**

**LATER IN THE GOSPEL JESUS BRINGS THIS UP AGAIN:**

**JOHN 15:6-15;18-19**

**WE ARE TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER, AND SHOW THE WORLD THE LOVE OF GOD IN JESUS... WE ARE TO BE A FELLOWSHIP, GOD'S FAMILY, HIS KINGDOM ON THE EARTH... ONE THAT ISN'T EXCLUSIVE BUT INVITING.**

**EPHESIANS 4:1-3**

**NOW: BIBLICAL ACCOUNTABILITY, PASTORAL LEADING, AND HEALTHY CORRECTION IS NOT ABUSE...**

**BUT SOMETIMES WE EXPERIENCE DELIBERATE, INTENTIONAL HURT**

### Some Church (big C) Problems:

1. Major hypocrisy of leaders.
2. Power trips over shepherding.
3. Yielding the truth as a weapon against people.

=using the name of Jesus and the words of Jesus without the love of Jesus.

**ACTS 4:32-37; ACTS 5:1-11 WHY DID THIS HAPPEN? HE WANTS US TO BE SCARED TO DEATH OF HYPOCRISY.**

**NO MATTER IF THE HURT WAS SOMETHING INTENTIONAL DONE TO US, OR MAYBE IT WASN'T... IT STILL HURT...**

**THERE'S HOPE FOR YOU TODAY.**

**BUT IT WILL REQUIRE YOU TO OPEN UP YOUR HEART AND EXPOSE THE WOUND.**

**MATTHEW 11:25-30**

**GOD'S INTENTION WAS NEVER FOR YOU TO BE HURT, BUT HIS INTENTION IS FOR YOU TO BE HEALED.**

**WE CAN NOT HEAL OURSELVES, AND HARBORING HURT WILL ALWAYS RESULT IN A ROOT OF BITTERNESS IF LEFT UNCHECKED.**

**Ephesians 4:25-32**

**HEB 12:14-15**

**WHAT TO DO WITH CHURCH HURT:**

**1. Remember the church isn't God, it's people called out by God.**

**ROM 12:5; 1 COR 12:27**

**2. Remember who the enemy is.**

**EPHESIANS 6:12; 1 PETER 5:8; John 8:44**

**3. When needed, you have permission to mourn for a season, when a respected leader falls.**

**4. Don't stay bitter but make church better.**

**5. Release the hurt.**

**ROM 12:14-21**