

1 - "You" Are The Church

A - The word in the NT translated "Church" is "Ecclesia" - Basically means those called out

Romans 10:9 - *"if you confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in our heart that God rose Him from the dead, you will be saved."*

C - Individual Salvation: When we give our life to Christ it is an individual process, a choice we make that no-one else can make for us.

When this happens: You actually join a priesthood

1 Peter 2:9 *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*^(NASB)

2 - "We" Are The Church

A - Salvation is, and always will be an individual event, however, it was never meant to be individualistic. Salvation should be what connects you with the rest of God's family, the same way adoption connects you to a family.

Hebrews 10:24 *Do not neglect to meet together*

Ecclesiastes 4:9 *Two are better than one*

Psalms 133: *How good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity*

1 John 1:7 *but if we walk in the light, as he is the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His son cleanses us from all sin.*

Romans 12:5 *So we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.*

B - God desires community for His people

Ephesians 3:8-10 ⁸ *To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,* ⁹ *and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things;* ¹⁰ *so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.*^(NASB)

"The manifold wisdom of God may be made known "through the Church"

Let me put that another way :*That together, the people of God, who, through relationship with Christ, serve as the representatives of the purposes of God on earth, might bring others to the saving knowledge of a relationship with Jesus.*

I don't know about you, but I think that this process has a much higher possibility of success when we make the choice to work together in common purpose. Setting aside ego, ambition, and pride, we simply step into the role that the spirit is asking us to fill, all for the benefit of one another, and the mission of the Gospel. When God's people come together for his purposes, we are the church._____

3 - "He" Is The Church

A - I was watching a video earlier this week from Francis Chan: In it he asked a question that I thought was great: *If someone was asked to you to describe the church using only the Bible, could you do it?*
Francis Chan

B - If you were to describe the life of Christ, would it describe the church? So I started with the phrase Jesus is: _____

C - All that the church does is singularly focused.

Journal

1 - The question posed by Francis Chan is by no means a small task. It is a question that cannot be answered in a single sentence, or for that matter, a small book. It takes years of commitment and dedication to the process of study and relational development with Christ, and His word. Many Christians, I would say the vast majority, learn a great deal about the bible throughout their life as a believer. The problem is that all too often we do not know how to put that knowledge together in a way that is easy for an unchurched person to understand. My belief is that this is true because we often have never tried to figure out where the gaps are in our understanding. Below I have a simple four question exercise. Answer each of the questions to the best of your ability, and as completely as you can. Then put the list a way for a few days and come back to it and ask yourself two questions: 1 - do your answers still make sense to you? 2 - do they flow from one to the other (can you connect the thoughts together into one conversation)? When you find the areas where you can identify gaps you'll know where to study. (you will need more paper)

1 - Who is Jesus?

2 - Why did he come to earth and die on a cross?

3 - What do I need to do to *become* a Christian?

4 - What do I need to do *as* a Christian?