

We Are the Church

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Question: What is your initial one sentence answer to the question “What does it mean to (follow Jesus and) be the church?”

Read 1 Corinthians 1:1–3

***The problem: they were the church in Corinth, but there was way too much Corinth in the church!**

In our culture, many people who would describe themselves as followers of Jesus would say that “Jesus is essential, but church is optional.”

Question: What are some ways you have “heard” others “say” this statement?

Almost every time you find the word CHURCH in Bible, it’s referring to a local, visible congregation.

**A text without a context
is just a pretext for whatever you want it to mean.**
Ben Witherington

**Even though the Bible is for us,
it was not written to us, nor was it written about us.**
Michael F. Bird

*If we disrespect the historical and cultural distance, we will distort the biblical teaching.

Question: What is an example of this you can think of?

The Bible is the written revelation of God’s character and saving purposes for humanity and for all creation. As God’s revelation, the entire Bible is true and trustworthy, and is the final and absolute authority for belief and conduct.

PAOC Statement of Essential Truths

Sanctification: the way that we live and treat others should increasingly reflect who Jesus is and what he has done in us. The trend in today's culture is ‘**self-directed spirituality**’.

Questions: What are some ways this “looks” in our culture today? What are some truths about the “church” found in 1 Corinthians 1:2? How do these truths stand in contrast to “self-directed spirituality?”

The problem with the church of Corinth is that they looked more like Corinth than they looked like Jesus.

Big Questions: What is an example of looking more like “Nanaimo” than looking more like Jesus? What needs to shift for you to look more like Jesus?

