

WE ARE CHURCH

VALUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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In a post-Covid world, the Church has never been more important. The trouble is, we've been living in a new world for so long that it's difficult to understand the church's value in 2021. In this series, we will look at what the church is and how the church has always functioned. And we will look at the *opportunity* the Church has in front of us for communal growth and Gospel expansion as we assimilate into a new future.

Part 1: Why Jesus Matters

Read the text: John 14:1-6

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Jesus is the foundation on which we build our church. He is the highest authority in the church and he informs everything the church says and does. He himself claims that he is the *WAY* and the *TRUTH*. We are often very good at learning the *truths* of Jesus but are keen to forget the *way* of Jesus. We can't fully know the truths of Jesus without knowing the way of life he calls us to. It

is this important fact that helps us understand just what the church is created to be. And when we know the truth of Jesus through following the ways of Jesus, we get to experience the life that Jesus offers.

Discussion Questions:

These questions are written for DNA groups, but you can use them in any setting, including missional communities. Because they were written for the intimacy of DNA friendships, you may need to adjust for larger groups.

1. Pastor Eddie shared that in order to understand our identity as the church, we must first know Jesus. Why start with Jesus in order to understand the church? What are your biggest questions when it comes to the value and role of the church today? Try to be honest and specific.
2. Eugene Peterson wrote: “You cannot understand the truth of Jesus until you understand the ways of Jesus.” What are the “ways of Jesus” that help us understand Jesus? How does following the “ways of Jesus” help us know the “truth of Jesus?”
3. Pastor Eddie shared that the way of Jesus is: “Embarking on the life-long journey of seeking, knowing, obeying and resting with Jesus. The *Way of Jesus* follows Him to Gethsemane in doubt, the desert in need, the cross in suffering and the empty tomb in life. The Way links arms with other imperfect people in the church as we journey through our sin towards a redeemed future.” Which part of this “way” is currently hardest for you? Your need? Doubt? Suffering? Experiencing life? Linking arms with others?
4. Why is it crucial to know Jesus as “the truth” today? How does that make a tangible difference in your everyday life?

5. The church's role today is to point people to Jesus. Where have we failed at that? How have we gotten in the way of people seeing Jesus? It will be easy here to think of how "other Christians" or churches have failed. Try to focus instead on yourself and where you need to repent and seek God's help.