

SPENCER DAVIS – SW016

**I'VE GOT JESUS... WHY DO I
NEED THE CHURCH?**

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

- ▶ When you join Christ, you join his people.
 - ▶ Galatians 3:26-28 - "...for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."
 - ▶ One people - Titus 2:14
 - ▶ One building - 1 Peter 2:5
 - ▶ One body - Romans 12:4-5

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

- ▶ When you join Christ, you join his body.
 - ▶ Ephesians 4:15-16 - "Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."
 - ▶ 1 Corinthians 12:14-26

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

- ▶ When you join Christ, you become His bride.
 - ▶ Ephesians 5:22-33

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

- ▶ When you join the Christ, you are adopted into his family.
 - ▶ Ephesians 1:4-6 - "even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will, to the praise of His glorious grace, with which He has blessed us in the Beloved."

WHY DO YOU NEED THE CHURCH?

- ▶ 1. Neglecting the church is missing out on encouragement.
 - ▶ Hebrews 10:24-25 - "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

“OUTSIDE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH, WE WILL LACK THE ENCOURAGEMENT GOD HAS FOR US, AND WE WILL BE FAILING TO HELP OTHERS GROW IN THEIR FAITH TOO. TO THINK WE WILL CARRY ON OUR CHRISTIAN LIVES IS THEREFORE A LITTLE ARROGANT – I’M SAYING I CAN MANAGE WITHOUT THE ENCOURAGEMENT THAT GOD WANTS TO PROVIDE ME WITH THROUGH THE LOCAL CHURCH – AND QUITE SELFISH – I’M SAYING THAT I WON’T ENCOURAGE THOSE IN MY LOCAL CHURCH.”

Sam Allberry

WHY DO YOU NEED THE CHURCH?

- ▶ 2. Neglecting the church is missing out on evangelism.
 - ▶ John 13:35 - "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."
 - ▶ 1 John 4:7-8 - "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love."

WHY DO YOU NEED THE CHURCH?

- ▶ 3. "The church needs you, and you need the church" - Allberry
 - ▶ The Word
 - ▶ The Fellowship
 - ▶ Serving
 - ▶ Giving

WHY DO YOU NEED THE CHURCH?

- ▶ 4. Your Pastor (or your podcast) can't do for you what only the church can.
 - ▶ Ephesians 4:11-12 - "And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ."
 - ▶ Hebrews 3:12-13 - "Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called 'today,' that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."
 - ▶ Galatians 6:2 - "Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ."

SOME OBJECTIONS...

- ▶ But, who is to say how BIG a local church needs to be?
- ▶ What about “where two or more are gathered together”?
- ▶ But, I’m tired of “organized religion”.

WHAT SHOULD A CHURCH LOOK LIKE?

- ▶ Believers
- ▶ Baptized - Matt. 28:19
- ▶ Meeting Regularly - Hebrews 10:25
- ▶ Worshipping God through Jesus - Acts 2:47, Romans 15:6-7
- ▶ Exhortation from the Word - 1 Tim. 4:13
- ▶ Celebrating Lord's Supper (?) - Luke 22
- ▶ Appointed Leaders - Acts 14:23, 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1