



Leading People into a Growing Relationship with Jesus Christ!

Series: I Love My Church!

Message: "What is at Stake"

Date: October 22-23, 2016

Researcher Thom Rainer, estimates that between 8,000 and 10,000 churches will close this year. Last year more than half of all churches in America did not add even one new member. Each year, nearly 3 million more previous churchgoers enter the ranks of the "religiously unaffiliated."

Learn

Jesus LOVES His church! Here's how it began:

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved. **Acts 2:42-47 (NLT)**

What surprises you most about this brand new church?

What are some of the factors involved for this to take place?

Do you believe God wants to continue to recreate this vision on earth today?

Live

When you move from "learn" to "live," you move from "information" to "transformation." Merely reading about this historical account is not enough to recreate it. What is necessary NOW for the church today to experience God's best now? (HINT: think about individual responsibility)

How can we take steps individually together to rely on the Holy Spirit and one another?



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Love

If God changes you on the inside, others will feel the change. Ask yourself, "How do I do what I do every day in a way that brings glory to God?"

What are some normal, everyday actions or interactions that, when approached with the right spiritual attitude, bring glory to God?

Lead

Question: Do you believe it is worth people devoting their lives to building up the church of Jesus?

Consider how each of you fit into Jesus' strategy for building up the church:

Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. **Ephesians 4:11-16 (NLT)**

Pray!

Pray for God to raise up more "workers for the harvest." Pray that a spiritual revival would take place!