

What if ...

- *We do not know what THIS is?*
- *We are made for something DIFFERENT than THIS?*
- *We are made for something MORE than THIS?*

We are made to be part of the **CHURCH!!**

- The Jesus Church

The Jesus Church contrasted with--

- Traditional/Cultural Church
- Diminished Church
- Optional Church
- SBNR

The Jesus Church is the highest expression of the will of God in this age as purchased by the Blood of Jesus, filled with His Spirit and launched out into the world, all in accordance with His Word.

According to Scripture, the Church is the habitation of God through the Holy Spirit.

God is essentially present in the world but graciously present in the Church.

Rock Bridge Community Church is NOT a perfect church.

Acts 1:1-3 (ESV)

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus **began** to do and teach, ²until the day when he was **taken up**, after he had given commands **through the Holy Spirit** to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³He presented himself **alive** to them after his suffering by **many proofs**, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the **kingdom of God**.

Five Ingredients of the Jesus Church:

1) Recognition of (and submission TO and incorporation INTO) a **BETTER STORY**.

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| a. Author: | God |
| b. Hero: | Jesus |
| c. Veracity: | Resurrection |
| d. Authority: | Jesus |

Lesser Stories:

- 1) Worldly Success
- 2) Secularism
- 3) Consumerism
- 4) Individualism

*Do I have all that the **Scriptures** say I should have and that **God** wants me to have?*

Warning:

Just because you have what you want to have does NOT mean that you have what God wants you to have.

Psalm 106:15 (NKJV)

He gave them their request, But sent **leanness** into their soul.

Warning:

Un-churched, De-churched, and UNDER-churched

Acts 1:4-5

And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from **Jerusalem**, but to **wait** for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be **baptized with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now.”

Ingredients of the Jesus Church:

2) Dependence upon the **Presence of God** (Holy Spirit)

Do we want what we can do OR what God can do??

Church Reduction:

- Church programs = Church health
- Church as a social group
- Information; Logic/Reasoning

Meet my needs ...

Meet God where He is

Meet me where I'm at ...

Acts 1:6-7

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He said to them, “It is **not for you to know** times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own **authority**.”

Ingredients of the Jesus Church:

3) **Correction & Rebuke** → **Transformation & Reformation** {Growth}

Are we willing to embrace the discomfort?

“I always knew a bottle of [wine] would [make me happy. If you want a religion [faith] to make you feel really comfortable, I certainly do not recommend Christianity.”

{C.S. Lewis}

Recognize something:

- **Unblessed plans:**
 - That God never gave us
 - That hold us back ... ??

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be **my witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and **to the end of the earth.**"

Ingredients of the Jesus Church:

- 4) **Embrace of Purpose: **Witnesses of Jesus** (3-fold)**
 - a. His moral authority & excellence
 - b. News of His Reign (Kingdom of God; resurrection)
 - c. News of His self-giving love (Cross)

Notable:

- 1) The world is on the receiving end
- 2) Contrast with consumerism & individualism:
 - a. Maximum say and Minimum responsibility

Life in Christ:

- Find FULLNESS in the fullness of God.
- Forge FELLOWSHIP in the family of God
- Follow JESUS in ministry and mission

This ingredient guarantees two forces will be felt within the Jesus Church:

- #1: Holy Discontent
- #2: Friction with the world

Acts 1:9-11

And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was **lifted up**, and **a cloud** took him out of their sight.¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes,¹¹ and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you **into heaven**, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Ingredients of the Jesus Church:

- 5) **Understanding of **Jesus NOW** (ascension; on the Throne)**

The Jesus Church is still to be reckoned with!!

Trap:

Just because we believe something is true does not mean that we have done something about it!

➤ **Level UP into the Jesus Church ...**