

PEOPLE BECOMING THE CHURCH

BELIEFS & BEHAVIORS

BELIEFS

1- SCRIPTURE IS GOD'S WORD TO US.

The Bible is God's message to all of us. Written by human authors, over thousands of years, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Bible is the supreme source of truth for living on the mission with Jesus and knowing the heart of God.

2- GOD IS GOOD.

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. There is one God who exists forever in perfect community as three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is love and his creation is good.

3- JESUS IS LORD.

Jesus is fully human and fully God. Jesus was tempted just as we are and yet lived a sinless human life. He died on a Roman cross as a perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people everywhere. Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead to show He had conquered sin and death. Jesus ascended to the Father and will return to earth as the Savior of the world. Because Jesus was human, we can follow him. Because Jesus is God, we can trust him, worship him, and be saved by him. Jesus shows us what God is like.

4- THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR POWER

The Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and Jesus. He is present in the world to draw people toward Jesus producing in us the fruit and gifts of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit lives in every follower of Jesus as a comforter and advocate equipping us with power to live a life of love, understanding, spiritual truth, and boldness in proclaiming the gospel.

5- THE CHURCH IS PEOPLE.

The Church isn't a building, or an institution or a business, it's you, with your friends, fully alive and growing into your full potential as you follow Jesus. The church is all the followers of Jesus throughout history, in the world today, in a city or region, gathered in one place for worship, sharing meals, and doing life together. Jesus is building a church that is a multi-ethnic, multicultural, and multi-generational family; and that family includes you.

6- THE CHURCH ON THE MISSION WITH JESUS TO HELP HEAL THE WORLD

God so loved this broken world that he sent Jesus to heal this world and make all things new. Now, Jesus invites his church to join him on this mission. When people choose to follow Jesus, God sends them out in their everyday life to go, make disciples, baptize, and teach their friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers how to follow Jesus.

7- WE ARE ALL BROKEN

We are made in God's image - to be like Him in character - but because humans rebelled against God, everyone is born with a selfish nature that "misses the mark." Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin." We - all of us - need Jesus to save us.

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8- THE GOSPEL IS GOOD NEWS.

God offers us the gift of grace (undeserved forgiveness) through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This gift is freely offered, but we must accept it. We begin this journey of faith by saying “yes” to letting Jesus lead. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or trying to be good people. Salvation is freely offered to every person by grace and received through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

9- WE WILL LIVE FOREVER.

We have choices. We can either let Jesus lead us and live forever with God or choose to not let Jesus be the Lord of our lives and be eternally separated from God. The invitation of eternal life with Jesus as part of the new creation is offered to all who choose to follow him.

10- JESUS CHANGES EVERYTHING.

Jesus changes us from the inside out. As we are being transformed, we participate in God’s promise to make all things new. Salvation is bigger than a personal relationship with Jesus - it is hope for all creation, all nations, all people in every circumstance - that God will set every wrong thing right. We don’t say yes to Jesus one time to go to heaven, we join Jesus in bringing heaven here.

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BEHAVIORS

1- FOLLOW JESUS WHEREVER HE LEADS

People becoming the church is Jesus-centric. Together, we read the words of Jesus and interpret all of scripture and culture through a Jesus-centered lens. Because we go deeper by doing, followers of Jesus grow by asking themselves: "What is Jesus saying to me?" and "What am I doing about it?"

2- KEEP THE ARROWS OUT

It's easy to become unintentionally self-focused. It's about Jesus. It's his mission. It's not about me. People becoming the church ask themselves: "What would reach the most people who are not yet here?"

3- GIVE GOOD AWAY

God loved the world so much that he . . . gave. A people becoming the church movement is generous because God is generous. We look for real needs in our communities and meet them in practical ways.

4- THERE IS ALWAYS A THIRD WAY

Often, people would come to Jesus with two options for how to live and lead in his world: Religion or Rome. Jesus, through asking questions, patiently listening, and praying to his Father, would choose a third way. He never took the bait but also looked for a path toward love and life-change. When we are tempted to choose sides, let's point to Jesus.

5- MAKE IT LOOK LIKE HEAVEN

Because we believe that every person was created in God's image, we value every person. People becoming the church include people of all ages, genders, and races and treat every person like God made them.

6- NO ONE DOES THE MISSION ALONE

Early followers of Jesus loved to gather! They met to celebrate Jesus, study scriptures, pray, confess, have fun together, share the Lord's table, meet each other's needs. Authentic communities commit to forgiveness in all their relationships, giving grace to themselves and one another as they follow Jesus.

7- LEAN INTO THE AWKWARD

Jesus loves awkward moments because that is when grace is the most obvious. The more grace you have, the less awkward it will be. The more ego you have, the more awkward it becomes. Lean into the awkward moments because that is when God does his best work. Reward curiosity. Honor disinterest. Let Jesus do what only he can do.

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8- FOCUS ON TRAJECTORY

Jesus paid attention to people moving closer to him or further away. His response changed depending on each person's trajectory. By lowering the bar of acceptance and raising the bar of commitment, Jesus invites all of us to follow him, no matter where we are on the journey. So, instead of protecting God's holiness, we invite others into a lifetime of becoming more like Jesus together.

9- CELEBRATE THE GOOD

When God created the world, he said it was good! God delights in his creation and so should we. In a broken world, people becoming the church never miss an opportunity to celebrate the good that is already happening around us - knowing it's a sign of God at work. By celebrating the good, we reflect the hope and joy found in Jesus!

10- BRING SOMEONE WITH YOU

Jesus apprenticed disciples for the mission and told them they would do "even greater things." Then, he told them to "Go" and do the same - "make disciples of all nations." This is the responsibility of every follower of Jesus. Every disciple makes more disciples. We apprentice with those who have gone before us and invite others to follow Jesus with us by teaching them to hear the voice of Jesus and obey. The mission doesn't end with us; it continues through us.