

TALK IT OVER

Living Up to Our Name

BOTTOM LINE

We are stewards of the church in this generation. We must make sure that we are aligned with what Jesus initially intended.

CONVERSATION STARTER

What is the first “church” you remember? Who is a memorable person in that church?

THINGS TO CONSIDER

What did you hear?

What do you think?

What will you do?

RESOURCES

- The Daily: newpointe.org/thedaily
- [Ekklesia](#) - Defining the word

KEY VERSES AND QUOTES

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.” Matthew 16:13-18 NIV

“The church’s purpose is to invite people into a relationship with a God who loves them. When the church loses its purpose, it loses its influence.” – Dwight Mason

“How we live our lives either clarifies the authenticity of our faith or confuses it.” – Dwight Mason

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If you asked the average person on the street to define or describe “church,” what do you think might be included in the answers? If you asked the average church goer, how might their answers differ? How would you describe the church? Ekklesia means “called out ones” – a movement. We are Christ’s representatives on earth, intended to move into the world and impact and influence it for Him. 90% of Americans said in the latest surveys that they believe in God. Do you see any evidence that these “believers” are influencing the world for Christ? Explain your thoughts. We must realize we are part of something SIGNIFICANT. How can you invest in the mission? You are the CHURCH, an extension of Jesus Christ. How can you be good news and bring great joy to people? You must exhibit the ATTITUDE OF JESUS. What does that mean for you? Anything less than Jesus is unacceptable. Why does it matter? It’s an uphill battle today. The “ugly Christian” is the norm for our reputation. What must we do?

ACTION STEP

I will daily pray, “Jesus, may Your heart, attitude, tone, and posture be seen in me today by everyone. I want to be salt and light.”