

Sermon Study Guide – October 12, 2025

Greetings!

We're continuing our series about the church. In the past few weeks I've proposed a definition of the church based on taking the whole of the Bible into consideration:

The Church is

- The people of God (who are we?)
- On the mission of God (what are we doing?)
- Becoming the image of God in Christ (where are we going?)
- Through the power of the Holy Spirit (how do we do it?)

This week is Missions Sunday where we are focusing on the mission of God. The mission is what we do. God has called a people to himself to send them out. This fits a pattern we see throughout the Bible, a regular movement. This involves a call out (exodus), a period of formation, a sending into (mission), and reigning with Christ. The good news of Jesus Christ sends us into the world to proclaim his message that in Christ, God is reconciling all things to himself.

Rev. Dr. Gregory Wagenfuhr

Church is a People on the Movement of God's Mission

OT: Genesis 12:1-3

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great people, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

NT: John 20:19-23

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." 20 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

Outline

Introduction: The *Institution* of Faith?

Definition: Church is the people of God **on the mission of God...**

Foundation 1: Jesus is Known by the Scars

Foundation 2: Faith is Movement not Stasis

Foundation 3: Mission is Blessing/Forgiving/Reconciling

Implication (So what?): Church is part of God's mission bearing the image of God by being a blessing to all the peoples of the world.

Application (Now What?): We are all called to join the mission

Study Questions

Foundations: What?

1. When Jesus commissions his followers in the gospel of John he is known by his wounds. Why does this matter beyond proving he's not a ghost? What do his enduring wounds mean for the commission he gives his followers?
2. We often think of "having faith" or "being saved", concepts that are about possession or states of being. These are static concepts. What does it mean that faith is movement? From where to where?
3. What's the importance of there being a bless/curse and forgive/not forgiven aspect? (Hint... remember the "image of God" from last week!?)
4. The thread of "release" runs through exodus (release from bondage) to Jubilee (release from debts) and to the Lord's Prayer (debts in Matt, sins in Luke). What's the connection between slavery, sin, and actual financial debt?

Implications: So What?

5. How can the church be a blessing through its power of bearing forgiveness?

Applications: Now What?

6. How can you join God's mission through Grace of Christ to bless all peoples with the forgiveness of Jesus?

Prayer

Ask God what your place in his great mission might be, from as small as asking who needs to know about the forgiveness Jesus offers modelled by his people, to partnering with those who do it full time... We're all in it together!