

Taking Church Seriously

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The church is designed to give traction to your spiritual life like winter tires are designed to give traction to your vehicle.

Questions: Cultural shift has changed church. How has that effected the place of significance we give church in our lives? What effect has it had on you?

Unrealistic expectations about the church cause disillusionment. We think church should be perfect: “If we could only get back to the early church.” Most of the letters that make up the New Testament are in response to crisis and conflict.

Good news: the church isn’t perfect. That means there is room for me and you.

Questions: What unrealistic expectations have you had about the church? What resulting disillusionment have you had to wrestle with? How does this “good news” help?

How the church gives spiritual traction:

1. Provides your spiritual protection.

Acts 20:32

Vs. 28-29 “... guard yourselves and God’s people ... vicious wolves.”

Matthew 7:15-20 “... vicious wolves. You can identify them by their fruit ... by the way they act ... by their actions.”

Question: How does the imagery of “vicious wolves” affect the view of how the church protects you?

2. Encourages spiritual commitment.

“A step out of the local church is many times a step away from God.” Carey Nieuwhof

The more casual your commitment to the church, the more casual your commitment is to Jesus. The current of culture causes us to drift in our spiritual lives without even realizing it.

1 John 2:16; Hebrews 10:23-25 “... hold tightly without wavering ...”

Question: Can you give an example of this drifting in your own life or that you have observed?

3. Involves you in The Mission.

1 Corinthians 15:52

Question: In what ways are you involved in the mission that Jesus has called us to in this world?

How to take church seriously:

1. Show up and plug in.
2. Invite someone to come with you.
3. Invest your life through your time and money.

Questions: Out of these three points, which one is the strongest with you? Which one needs the most attention for you? What is one step you could take to strengthen this area?

