

*“People across the world today are really looking for basically three things in life. They are looking for help, they looking for hope and they are looking for healing” - **Pastor Jonathan Falwell***

(I) HELP

- (A) It's hard to find a clear portrait of why the church is so important in helping to fulfill our _____(1) purpose than looking in Luke's depiction of the church in Acts 2.
- (B) In Acts chapter 2 this infant church, brand new church found itself simply focusing on the _____(2) of their existence, namely to help those who were in need.
- (C) You see one element of why the church is so important in our lives is that it is an _____(3) that helps us to keep our focus on the help that only Christ can give.

(II) HOPE

The second thing that is so _____(4) is that people are looking for today is people are looking for hope and the church should be an essential part of a person's life because it is a source of _____(5). A constant reminder if you will, of how our need to know there is something out there that is _____(6) this life. Something beyond who we are, beyond ourselves beyond anything we could do or ever _____(7) that can bring true hope to our lives and that found in Christ.

(III) WHY CHRISTIANS NEED HOPE

You see Paul purposely wrote about heaven in the Bible to give hope to:

- (A) Christ followers who may be _____(8)
- (B) Who maybe _____(9)
- (C) Worn by the day to day _____(10)
- (D) _____(11) of living life in this world.

To the believer, well we can take hope, we have hope and the church helps us to constantly reflect on and remember the hope that is found in Christ and the _____(12) that he has created just for us. Yes the _____(13) of the

church intended for his church to be a congregation of help and hope, a place where we stand (14) helping each other.

(IV) CHURCH IS A FAMILY

The reality is this, the church is not an organization it is a _____ (15) . Asking why church, is like asking the question why family? Think about it how many people would say I don't see the _____(16) to have a family. I like people I can (17) to friends from time to time why would I want to be in a family? Now you see human's _____ (18) family connection. A parent spouse child, in the New Testament, one of the main pictures of the church is the word family.

Search the words brother, sister, family, children and you'll see how much God talks about his family the church. Christ never intended us to do life alone. He never _____(19) us or wanted us to grow in our faith all by ourselves he wanted us to connect to others so that we could grow in our faith and _____ (20) each other but he also intended for his church to be a place of healing.

(V) HEALING

The church is an essential promise of healing not because of what we the members in the church can do but rather because of what our founder, what Christ has _____ (21) that he will do.

(VI) TRUE AND COMPLETE HEALING

To an _____(22) world this isn't possible because they can only serve to remedy the symptoms and not the root of sin. To a believer this brings so much joy that the founder of the church, _____ (23) himself not only saves our souls but he supports us along life's journey.

(VII) YOU NEED A SAVIOR

- (A) Realize that you need a _____ (24) (John 14:6)
- (B) Admit there is sin in your _____ (25) (Romans 3:23)
- (C) _____ (26) and turn away from your sin (Acts 3:19)
- (D) Request for Jesus to _____(27) you (1 John 1:9)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

- (A) In what way is the church different from a secular organization that seeks to help people? *Hint: Matthew 25:31-46*
- (B) How does Christ's example serve as a motivator in our lives for hope in difficult times? *Hint: Romans 8:18-31*
- (C) What was the ultimate reason why Jesus healed people physically? *Hint: John 9:1-41*

KEY SCRIPTURES:

Acts 2:42-47, Philippians 3:20, 1 John 1:9

ADDITIONAL READING:

The Master Plan for the church by *John MacArthur*

The Church in God's Program by *Robert Saucy*

Stop Dating the Church! Falling in Love with the Family of God by *Joshua Harris*



1. Intended
2. Essential
3. Organization
4. Important
5. Reference
6. Beyond
7. Imagine
8. Discouraged
9. Battered
10. Struggles
11. Challenges
12. Future
13. Founder
14. Together
15. Family
16. Need
17. Connect
18. Desire
19. Encouraged
20. Strengthen
21. Promised
22. Unbelieving
23. Christ
24. Savior
25. Heart
26. Repent
27. Cleanse