

## ***Lies We Believe: I don't need the Church?***

### *Various Texts*

#### ***The Claim: "I don't need the Church."***

- The underlying premise: Our relationship with God does not require others
  - "It's just me and Jesus."
  - Sometimes this thinking a rejection of organized religion
  - But there is a real danger in this thinking

#### ***Scripture's Truth***

- Scripture *does* talk about our need for a personal relationship with God through Jesus (Rom. 10:9)
- However, it also talks about our need for true Christian community to be who God calls us to be (Heb 10:24-25)
  - I cannot be who Jesus calls me to be alone

#### ***The Church is...***

- Who we are: Ekklesia= "Those who are called out"
  - Not what we do: We don't 'do church'
  - Not a place we gather: We don't 'go to church'
- The Body of Christ: The hands and feet of Jesus to each other and our neighbors (1 Cor 12:27)
  - Everyone using their gifts for the common good (Rom 12:4-6a; 1 Cor 12:7)

#### ***The Purpose of the Church***

- To show the world who Jesus is by loving God
  - Worship: Declaring to God His worth (Heb. 12:28)
    - Can be done alone, but often better with others
  - Discipleship: Growing in our relationship with Him (Rom 12:1)
    - An act of love toward God
- To show the world who Jesus is by loving each other
  - Fellowship: Gathering together in Jesus' name (1 John 1:7)
  - Discipleship: Encouraging one another to grow in our relationship with Jesus (Eph 4:15-16)
  - Service: Showing Christ's love in practical ways (Gal 5:13)
- To show the world who Jesus is by loving our neighbors (Gal 5:14)
  - Evangelism: Sharing Christ's love in word and deed (Matt 28:18-20)
  - Service: Showing Christ's love in practical ways (Jas 2:16)

## ***How We Are the Church***

- Being the Church is not *primarily* about what we do on Sundays
  - That *is* a time for worship, discipleship, service, and fellowship
  - But it is not our *only* opportunity for those things
- We can gather for those purposes at other times and in other ways as well
  - And sometimes more effectively
- Right Now
  - Continue with weekly online worship services
  - Have occasional in-person services
    - Outdoor Service June 21<sup>st</sup>
  - Intentional Small Groups that will focus on missional living
    - Reflecting Acts 2:42

## ***So What?***

- We need each other to be the people God desires us to be
- That is not *primarily* about Sunday mornings
- It is about gathering together and going out into the world to be the hands and feet of Jesus
  - Showing each other and the world the love of Jesus at work in us

**Meditation Verse:** *Acts 2:42*