

WE, THE CHURCH...

A VISION SERMON SERIES



WEEK 1: WE, THE DEVOTED

Preface.

When people hear the word “church,” they almost immediately equate it with judgmentalism, outdated belief systems and boring rituals. But that describes empty, man-made religion and not what the church really is about. The Lord Jesus in His time here on earth felt the same way about religion. The Lord Jesus strongly addressed the emptiness of religion and rituals of His time, and showed a counter-cultural and radical way of following God. In this sermon series, WE, THE CHURCH, we rediscover what it means to be the church, find out God’s true purpose for the church, and the remarkable power of belonging to His church.

Discover.

- In Matthew 23, Jesus condemns the emptiness of religion which elevated rituals and rules over God. Can you name some religious rituals and rules from your own tradition or background that you find absurd or outdated?
- Jesus elevated relationship with God over rituals and rules. He emphasized the idea of loving God and loving others. Jesus introduces this radical idea of devotedly walking with God and fellow lovers of God simultaneously. Jesus established the church as a spiritual community for people who have chosen to follow Him to grow together, and become the force that will call others to come to God. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 which describes the role of the church in this world. Share what you find out from these verses about your role as a believer.
- Read Acts 2:42-27. In these verses, the church was still so new, just days in existence! How did they live out the radical and counter cultural teachings of Jesus according to these verses?
- Pastor Jon shared that at Mosaic, we are committed to living out the original purpose of the church by:
 - 1) Becoming a radically devoted church.
 - 2) Becoming a ridiculously generous church.
 - 3) Fearlessly and intentionally sharing the love of Jesus with others.

Apply.

- Devote yourself to Jesus and His Church. The two are inseparable. You can’t commit to one and not the other. Read Colossians 1:18. Share what this verse explicitly teaches about the relationship of Jesus and His church.
- Pastor Jon shared a couple of applications:
 - 1) **Read God’s Word.** Grow in your love for God through regular Bible reading.
 - 2) **Serve in church.** Use your God-given abilities and talents for the Lord.
 - 3) **Start tithing.** Test God in this, and He will open the windows of heaven for you.
 - 4) **Pray daily, come to worship regularly.** Stop making excuses from coming to church.
 - 5) **Invite others.** Embrace your role as an ambassador of Jesus by inviting others.

Pray.

Acts 2:42-47

42 They **devoted** themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

44 All the believers were together and had everything in common.

45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.

46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,

47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.