

**HOUSE OF FAITH CHRISTIAN CENTER**  
**“A GRACE TO FOLLOW GOD’S SON IN 2021!”**  
**September 12, 2021**

**“And Jesus called [to Him] the throng with His disciples and said to them, If anyone intends to come after Me, let him deny himself [forget, ignore, disown, and lose sight of himself and his own interest] and take up his cross, and [joining Me as a disciple and siding with My party] follow with Me [continually, cleaving steadfastly to Me.]” Mark 8:34 (Amplified Version)**

**FOLLOWING JESUS THROUGH THE LOCAL CHURCH**

**Introduction:** Allow me to begin this message by asking you a very inquisitive, mind-boggling, and thought-provoking question? What do you envision when I say the word; “church?” Now you may have various and diverse thoughts and opinions about this topic. There are those who believe that the church is no longer important; going to church is not necessary; the church is filled with a bunch of “hypocrites”; all the church wants is people money; and you can live a successful and purpose-filled life without attending church.

**Today’s Message: Why Christians Need The Church. See Matthew 16:13-19.**

**Introduction:** As we continue our study of the church, we must understand that the church is not the building, but the “Ekklesia” which means the “called out ones”. It is the Assembly of God’s people who have been called out of a worldly system to fulfill the divine purposes of God. The church was created by Jesus Christ to help people live out their Christian lives through Evangelism, Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, and Ministry.

**4 Reasons Why Christians Need The Church**

- 1.** We are members of the Body of Christ. **See 1 Corinthians 12:12-14.** Jesus never intended for us to live an isolated life or invisible relationship with Him. Jesus desires for his body; which is his church to be a public organism, which lives for His glory and for the good of others. The church is His body. **See Ephesians 1:22-23 and Colossians 1:18.**
- 2.** Jesus fulfills his mission on earth through the church. **See Matthew 28:18-20.** Jesus chooses to work through the church to make disciples in every nation, and this mission will continue until he returns back again to the earth.
- 3.** We are instructed submit to church leadership. To lead the church of the Living God, Jesus appoints elders or Pastors as leaders. The leaders of the church never possess absolute authority. Whatever authority we have, has been delegated by God. Submitting to church leadership brings both Glory to God and is for our personal benefit. **See Hebrews 13:7 and Hebrews 13:17.**
- 4.** To warn us when we are being deceived by sin. **See Hebrews 3:12-14.** Staying in constant fellowship with other believers of faith will keep us from habitual sinning and will prevent us from having an unbelieving heart in the Presence, Power, Protection and Promises of God.

### **Five (5) Confessions regard Why We Need The Church**

1. I confess that Jesus Christ builds the church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.
2. I am a member of the local church and of the body of Christ. I have been called out of a worldly system to assemble together with my brothers and sisters in Christ for a divine purpose by God.
3. I confess that Jesus fulfills His mission within the church by making disciples in every nation. This mission will continue until Jesus returns back again to the earth.
4. I confess that I will submit to church leadership, who have the responsibility to watch over my soul; and this will benefit me.
5. I confess that I will stay in constant fellowship with other believers of faith. For they will keep me from habitual sinning and will prevent me from having an unbelieving heart in the Presence, Power, Protection and Power of God.

### **PRAYER OF COMMITMENT**

**Father in the Name of Jesus, I thank you that Jesus Christ is my Lord and I will follow Him. I thank you that Jesus builds the church and the gates of hell and death shall not prevail against it. I thank you I have been called out of worldly system for a divine purpose, and I will go and make disciples. I thank you that I will submit to church leadership and will stay in constant fellowship with other believers of faith. As I realize this, I understand Father, that You have given me a "Grace to Follow Your Son in 2021." In Jesus Name. I pray. Amen.**