

Why Do Church?

Why would Jesus want me to be involved in a local Body of believers? Specifically, why would God want me involved at Lighthouse?

- **Reason #1: BECAUSE JESUS LOVES THE CHURCH, AND THAT INCLUDES LIGHTHOUSE.**

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her . . . Ephesians 5:25 (New International Version)

Now I say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. Matthew 16:18 (New Living Translation)

Church = *ekklesia* = “a called-out assembly”

- **Reason #2: BECAUSE LIGHTHOUSE PROMOTES GOD’S CHIEF AGENDA.**

Lighthouse’s Purpose Statement: “We are a Christ-centered community reaching out every day to make more and better disciples.”

The Great Commandment

Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” Matthew 22:37-40 (NIV)

The Great Commission

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

- **Reason #3: BECAUSE LIGHTHOUSE PROMOTES A CLEAR AND DOABLE STRATEGY TO ACCOMPLISH GOD’S AGENDA.**

Our Strategy: UP, IN AND OUT

- **UP** = Developing a close relationship with God
Ephesians 1:17; Philippians 3:10; James 4:8
 - Next step at Lighthouse: Be regularly present and fully involved in weekend services.
 - Next step individually: The spiritual disciplines (See James 1:22-25.)
- **IN** = Living in community with other believers by developing interdependent relationships within the family of God
Romans 12:5b; Hebrews 10:24-25
 - Next step at Lighthouse: Join a small group.
 - Next step individually: one-on-one mentoring, etc.
- **OUT** = Making an impact for God through service and outreach
 - Service = “meeting needs in love”
(See 1 John 3:11ff; 1 Corinthians 12:5, 27)
 - Next step at Lighthouse: “First Serve” (offered October 7)
 - Next step individually: Family, community service in Jesus’ Name
 - Outreach = Reaching out in relevant ways to people far from God to become a bridge to Jesus
Romans 10:13, 14; 2 Peter 3:9
 - Next step at Lighthouse: The Alpha Course
 - Next step, individually: Spend time serving, witnessing to and praying for a person far from God

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.
Ephesians 1:17 (NIV)

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him . . . Philippians 3:10 (NIV)

Come near to God and he will come near to you. James 4:8a (NIV)

Since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others. Romans 12:5b (NLT)

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. ²⁵*Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*
Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

“Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” ¹⁴*But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?”* Romans 10:13, 14 (NLT)

“The Lord . . . is patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to perish, so he is giving more time for everyone to repent. 2 Peter 3:9 (NLT)