

**I. ME**

A. Welcome

B. Brand New Church

**1. Trying something a little different**

a. Asked ourselves, "What if we committed to making a place for people who normally don't like church?" ...

1) Have been hurt, turned off, or never that interested by church....

b. A place where they can Discover Who God really is... how much He really loves them?

c. And find a transforming relationship with Jesus Christ

**2. God doesn't just love religious church people.**

a. He passionately and wildly loves people who have never even stepped foot in a church building or have decided they never want to again

**3. Not a building...** that's not what a church looks like.

a. Look around... a **Church looks like people.**

4. So what if we gathered a group of people who were passionately committed to showing and sharing Jesus' love with people who normally wouldn't want to go to a church?

5. There are a lot of churches for church people who like church, and that's great... but why not make a place where the rest of us can experience and discover God's love?

a. I'm not a big fan of church either.

**C. First time with a church or first time in a while, for whatever reason, you could not have chosen a better time to come.**

1. We have designed all of this with you specifically in mind.
2. And for the next 5 weeks we are going to address some of the things that have kept you away from church
3. And what we are going to discover is, that most of the things you resist about church are things the church should be resisting too.

**D. I've been asked, "what is there not to like or even hate about church?"**

1. From the perspective someone just looking at church, not necessarily a Christian...
2. **The church is a community of people who follow the teaching of a man** (we believe more than a man) **sent from God to explain God and to clear the path to God.**
3. That's essentially what the church is...
4. What's there to resist about that?
  - a. Don't have to agree, don't have to like it... but not much to dislike about it... unless... theres more to it than that.
5. And His primary teaching, his "Here's what I want you to do" was 3 things... really just one with three applications
  - 1) Love God**
  - 2) Love each other**
  - 3) Love your enemies**
6. So what is there to resist or even hate?
7. There should be nothing about the church that there is to dislike
  - a. Except one thing...
  - b. Our loyalty to Jesus Christ

- E. For the first 300 years of Christianity the main thing people resisted about the church was exactly that.
1. Christians were loyal to Jesus and not Caesar.
    - a. They said Jesus is our king not Caesar... and Caesar didn't like it... the people didn't like it.
  2. So people didn't like Christians and the church...
    - a. Not b/c they were weird, judgmental, obsessed with politics, or exclusive...
    - b. It was b/c they said, "As loving as we can be... at the end of the day we believe Jesus is our king."
    - c. And in the Roman Empire that didn't really go over well.
    - d. For the first 3 centuries that was the only issue with Christians
  3. Wouldn't it be great if the only bad thing people (even you) had to say about Christians was that?
    - a. "Great neighbors, great co-workers, love each other and everyone else so well.
    - b. I hope one moves in next door to me, I hope my daughter dates one, They treat their women amazingly, they love all races and groups, I hope my kid's teacher is one, everything about them is great...
    - c. But they think Jesus is God... ugh I can't handle that."
  4. Wouldn't be great if the only thing people had to complain about Christians was our extraordinary devotion to Jesus?
  5. Sadly, I've never heard that reason for why someone dislikes church or Christians.
    - a. Heard many other reasons
  6. The church should be irresistible except for the fact that we believe Jesus is God.
    - a. That's ok to resist, your choice, but anything else about us that you or your friends find resistible is our fault and is probably something the church itself needs to resist.

- F. Think about it... who wouldn't want to be a part of a group of people who
1. Unconditionally loves each other?
  2. Who doesn't want to be part of something bigger?
  3. Avoid regret?
  4. Find strength to resist temptation?
  5. Have a second chance?
  6. Find acceptance and purpose?
  7. Who doesn't want her/his life to be better and be better at life?
- G. To which You might say... "If THAT'S what church is, then I'm in... but that's not been my experience... that's not what I was taught about church.
- H. And to which I say, "That's what church SHOULD be about. Stick around and help us make a church like that. We need all the help we can get."

## II. WE

- A. So what happened? (Why did the church become so resistible?)
1. Why are there things people don't like about the church that have nothing to do with our belief that Jesus is God and the Savior of the world?
  2. We're going to discover that the resistible things aren't new things that were added to the church but old things that crept into a new movement started by Jesus.
  3. Those old things come from what we are going to call the TEMPLE MODEL

### B. Temple Model

1. Includes almost all ancient religions and many of the religions in the world today.
2. They all have
  - a. Sacred places
  - b. Sacred Texts
  - c. Sacred men... who wield power over...
  - d. Sincere followers.

3. Sacred men hold the keys and power of inclusion, exclusion, heaven, and hell
4. **Tribal Witch Doctor**- Most powerful person in tribe
5. **Syria and Iraq**- Jihad
6. Do everything you can to make the god happy or at least not hurt you.
7. It's represented all over the world today.
  
8. What we're going to discover is that a lot of it is still alive and well in the local church too.
  - a. And a lot of what you or other people resist about church comes from aspects of the Temple Model that have crept into Christianity.
9. The Temple Model grants extraordinary power to the sacred men in sacred places who determine the meaning of sacred texts.
  - a. "If you don't do this or this... you are going to hell" A lot of power.
  
10. Isn't that exactly what this is?
11. Here's what we'll learn in this series...
  - a. Even though the temple Model has trickled into the community of Jesus-followers... it should not be that way B/C...
- 12. The arrival of Jesus signaled the end of the temple model and the beginning of something entirely new. (MAIN IDEA)**
  - a. For everyone in the entire world for all time.

### III. GOD

#### A. Entirely NEW

##### 1. No more sacred places

- a. Jesus would teach that you are sacred
- b. When you are standing on what you consider is the most sacred spot on the planet... the person next to you is more sacred to God than any piece of dirt in the world.

##### 2. No more sacred people

- a. No longer need a high priest
- b. Never have to pay or grovel for someone to beseech God on your behalf

##### 3. The sacred text... Old Testament would be fulfilled with a single verb... LOVE

##### 4. It was the start of something completely **BRAND NEW**

#### B. Jesus

##### 1. Jesus predicted a NEW MOVEMENT

- a. "Who do people say I am..."
- b. "Messiah, Son of God"
- c. **Matthew 16:18**
- d. "I will build my CHURCH- Ecclesia
- e. Church v. Ecclesia
  - 1) Ecclesia- Gathering/Assembly
  - 2) William Tyndale burned
  - 3) German word for House of the Lord... Church
  - 4) Why when you hear church you think place
- f. Jesus said, "No. I will build a gathering of people and I will be with them wherever they go... No more sacred places.

##### 2. Jesus instituted a NEW COVENANT (arrangement). He declared an end to the old covenant.

###### a. Luke 22:20

- b. New arrangement with God
- c. No longer needed a high priest to go to God and make sacrifices for you
- d. God had opened a new way for all of humankind to approach Him directly
- e. Jesus would be the final sacrifice

- f. No more sacred people talking to and appeasing God for you

### 3. **Introduced a NEW PERSPECTIVE** on Old Testament

Law

#### a. **Matthew 5:17**

- b. New meaning and new significance to the sacred text
- c. Kind of stuff they tried to stone Him for
- d. Claimed the entire OT was pointing to Him as a person
- e. "The law leads to me and ends with me"
- f. All of the prophets were prophesying about Him
- g. All of the stories, poetry, history, richness, were pointing to the need and the coming of a Savior.
- h. Jesus would say I've fulfilled the entire OT... It is finished.
- i. And then Jesus would replace the law, the sacred text, with...

### 4. **Jesus instituted a NEW, movement-defining ethic**

- a. Talk about in a couple of weeks
- b. Jews were known by circumcision, customs, traditions, diet, Sabbath, feasts, celebrations, and dedication to the temple
- c. The Jesus gathering would be marked by something else
- d. "It's way more simple than 630 Jewish laws or even 10 commandments.
- e. Toward the end, he gathered the Twelve and instructed them...  
**1) John 13:34-35**
- f. "As I have loved you"
- g. More than random acts of kindness.
- h. Getting down and washing stinking feet
- i. Turned the whole leadership paradigm on its head.
- j. Love would replace law keeping, self sacrifice would replace animal sacrifice
- k. The evidence of you being a Jesus follower isn't how well you pray or how often you go to church
- l. It's how well you love people that are difficult to love.

- m. "If you are at the temple and you realize things aren't right with your brother leave your sacrifice, God can wait, and go make things right with your brother first."
- n. Then He did something unimaginable for that group of people.
- o. Changed the meaning of their most sacred festival

### 5. **Jesus gave NEW meaning to Passover**

- a. Christmas is about me
- b. 4<sup>th</sup> of July is about Obama/Trump
- c. For about 1400 years the Jews had celebrated Passover to celebrate when God had delivered them from Egypt.
- d. A celebration given to them by MOSES!
- e. **Luke 22:19** "This represents ME" What?!
- f. Jesus most significant way of saying this isn't Temple Version 2.0... this is something ENTIRELY NEW.

## IV. **YOU**

### A. **Jesus offered a NEW RELATIONSHIP with God and a NEW LIFE forever**

#### 1. **John 1:12-13**

- 2. Jesus didn't offer to make us better at being good people
  - a. He said it's impossible
- 3. He didn't offer an easier way to earn God's love
- 4. He offers of NEW RELATIONSHIP with God and a NEW LIFE forever
  - a. Offers for us to become Children of God.
  - b. Not servants or slaves to an angry man in the sky
  - c. But beloved children of God.
- 5. Not by earning it by being really good or having the good stuff we do outweigh the bad.
  - a. "Jesus said, It doesn't work that way."

B. God already loves you... **(GOSPEL)**

1. He offers an eternal relationship with him as a **free gift**
  - a. We can't earn it and we don't deserve it
2. We've all broken the law of love... Bible calls it **sin**
  - a. Love God and Love others
3. **God loves** us and longs to be with us but He is also **a just King** and must punish our evil
  - a. Problem
  
4. Solution was **Jesus**
  - a. 100% and 100%
  - b. Died to pay the penalty
  - c. And purchase for us an eternal relationship with God
  
5. Accepted by **faith** (choosing to trust) that you don't have to do anything to have a perfect, eternal, unconditionally loving relationship with God.
  - a. We just have to accept that love and choose to believe that Jesus died to save us and take the punishment we deserve for our evil

C. **The Temple Model**

1. Be good... and do this and this and this... definitely not that... or else Thou shalt surely be smighted right in your sinning face."
2. Just keep trying harder.

D. **Jesus**

1. "It's not about good outweighing bad... it's about MY love for you and you trusting that I love you."
2. And then we do good for others, not to BE loved, but B/C we are already unconditionally loved and we want to share that love with everyone around us.

E. So we no longer have to follow the temple model.

1. Jesus has made a way to be free love God, love our neighbors and even to love our enemies b/c He loved us first.

F. No more...

1. Sacred places
2. No more special sacred people
3. The OT Law would be fulfilled with a single word... LOVE
  - a. Applied to God, each other and our enemies.

G. God is not an angry deity in the sky

1. Jesus offers a New Relationship with God and A new life forever.

V. **WE**

- A. For the first 300 years that was what the followers of Jesus were known for.
  
- B. But then some Temple Model thinking started to be blended into Jesus following thinking
  1. And some things that should have been left behind got blended in
  
- C. And unfortunately a lot of that temple thinking is still part of the Church today
  1. And it is the reason sooo many people resist church...
  
- D. But we are going to try to figure this out...
  1. We are going to try to let go of the things that have been holding the church back and holding us back from really experiencing the NEW RELATIONSHIP and NEW LIFE that Jesus offers us.
  
  2. We are going to ask for God's help to embrace what Jesus meant when He said, "This is something NEW. And it is for everyone everywhere... not just a knock off of Judaism or just for religious church people."
  
  3. We will by the grace of God strip off everything that makes the church of Jesus Christ unnecessarily resistible.
  
  4. And help lead people into a NEW transforming relationship with Jesus Christ.
  
- E. But for that to happen... you can't miss next week!