



I. **Ephesians 5:1-4**

A. What is a Christian? (The Question we asked the last 4 weeks).

1. **Follower of God**

- **Imitator**
- **A Person That Hears the Voice of the Good Shepherd and Is Quick to Obey**

2. Following Jesus....

- Living By A Standard...A Different Standard...A Heavenly Standard...Walking, Talking, Acting Just Like Jesus! (For as He is, so are we in this world!)
- Following Jesus must be intentional not passive.
- Carrying your cross – willing to die to yourself so you can live for Him. (There should be no confusion on what this means: *“In Him I live and move and Have My Being.”* – My personal interests are sacrificed to do what it takes to show everyone that He is My Savior...He is My Lord...He is My Friend).
- When I give Him my all...He doesn’t just return the favor...He overwhelms me with it! (**Mark 10:28-30**... *“All of these blessings shall come on you and overtake you if you hearken to the voice of the Lord your God...”*)
- He loved you enough to die for you...the question is not “Does God love us?” The question is “Do we love God enough to change our ways?”

II. Walking in Revelation / Becoming His Church

A. **Matthew 16:15-19**

1. First you must know Who Jesus is

- Not a Surface-Level Walk with God: If you are a surface-level Christian, when the enemy tries to bring trials and difficulty, you will lose your faith and question God every time.
- This is where Revelation Knowledge and the Renewed Mind play such a crucial part in your walk with God.

2. Once you get to know Him (Intentionally spending time with Him, Then He Will Know You and something amazing takes place: You receive a new identity (Most people never know who they are in Christ today).

3. Knowing Jesus is more than just going to church...It is being the church!

B. **“Upon this rock, I will build my church...”**

1. Our idea of church is a building.... “I go to World Victory Church”, or “I go to a Baptist or Methodist or Pentecostal Church.”
2. The word “church” is the Greek word ***“ekklesia” – a calling out, an assembly***
 - The Early church was born on the day of Pentecost *“They were ASSEMBLED TOGETHER in one place”.*

- Do you know where people assembled in the early days? Homes (***1 Corinthians 16:9, Colossians 4:15***). (Early persecution caused them many times to gather in secret) (It was in Syria around 230 AD when the first building for a church was built that was originally a house).
3. The importance of ***Matthew 18:20 and Hebrews 10:24-25***
- There are so many people who are not a part of God's church...gathering of people (and NO, ONLINE CHURCH DOES NOT COVER YOU!) (*"I don't believe in organized religion..."* comment – *"I don't either; I believe in relationship!"*)
 - We need each other to encourage and strengthen and fulfill our calling in life. What did Jesus pray? *"Father that they may all be one just as you and I are one."*
 - What is the church? God's people, His assembly of Children who are followers of Jesus. We are the light of the world, the salt of the earth.
 - So why do we go to church? Because we are the church...the assembly of saints, sons and daughters, children of the King; *"I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord!"*