



## Real Church | Week 2 We are Community of Faith

“Every believer was faithfully devoted to following the teachings of the apostles. Their hearts were mutually linked to one another, sharing communion and coming together regularly for prayer.” Acts 2:42

Church is not an \_\_\_\_\_ you attend. It is a \_\_\_\_\_ you belong to.

First, what happens when I STEP INTO COMMUNITY OF FAITH?

### 1. WE EXPERIENCE CHRIST’S \_\_\_\_\_

“You’re no longer wandering exiles. This kingdom of faith is now your home country. You’re no longer strangers or outsiders. You belong here, with as much right to the name Christian as anyone. God is building a home. He’s using us all—irrespective of how we got here—in what he is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now he’s using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day—a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home.” Ephesians 2:19-22

- You can’t build it with just one part.
- All the parts have to fit together.
- A part is useless until it’s connected.
- A part can be inside of the house and still not a part of the house.

The difference between \_\_\_\_\_ COF AND \_\_\_\_\_ COF is the difference between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. It’s commitment.

I GO TO COF comes to an \_\_\_\_\_. I AM COF belongs to a \_\_\_\_\_. It’s the difference between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

The BENEFIT: We find \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

### 2. WE EXPERIENCE CHRIST’S \_\_\_\_\_

“All this energy issues from Christ: God raised him from death and set him on a throne in deep heaven, in charge of running the universe, everything from galaxies to governments, no name and no power exempt from his rule. And not just for the time being, but forever. He is in charge of it all, has the final word on everything. At the center of all this, Christ rules the church. The church, you see, is not peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the church. The church is Christ’s body, in which he speaks and acts, by which he fills everything with his presence.” Ephesians 1:20-23

“What this adds up to, then, is this: no more lies, no more pretense. Tell your neighbor the truth. In Christ’s body we’re all connected to each other, after all. When you lie to others, you end up lying to yourself.” Ephesians 4:25

“Just as there are many parts to our bodies, so it is with Christ’s Body. We are all parts of it, and it takes every one of us to make it complete, for we each have different work to do. So we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others.” Romans 12:4-5

I cannot fulfill God's \_\_\_\_\_ for my life by \_\_\_\_\_.

"They are not connected to Christ, the head of the body. [He's talking about the church] but we are joined together in this body [the church] by his strong sinews [that's the connective tissue] and we grow only as we get our nourishment and strength from God." Colossians 2:19

The BENEFIT: By being a part of the body of Christ we find \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

### **3. WE EXPERIENCE CHRIST'S EXPONENTIAL \_\_\_\_\_**

"All this energy issues from Christ..." Ephesians 1:20

When I join Christ's \_\_\_\_\_, I get connected to the exponential \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.

"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:19-20

"I am the Vine and you are the branches! If you stay connected to me and I am connected to you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5

"The fruit of the Spirit is love and joy and peace and patience and kindness and goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control." Galatians 5:22-23

The BENEFIT: I find God's \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_!

Some problems in your life are so big you have to \_\_\_\_\_ tackle them.

"I give you the name Peter, a stone. And this truth of who I am will be the bedrock foundation on which I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not be able to overpower it." Matthew 16:18