

DOUBTING

the

CHURCH





DOUBTING GOD

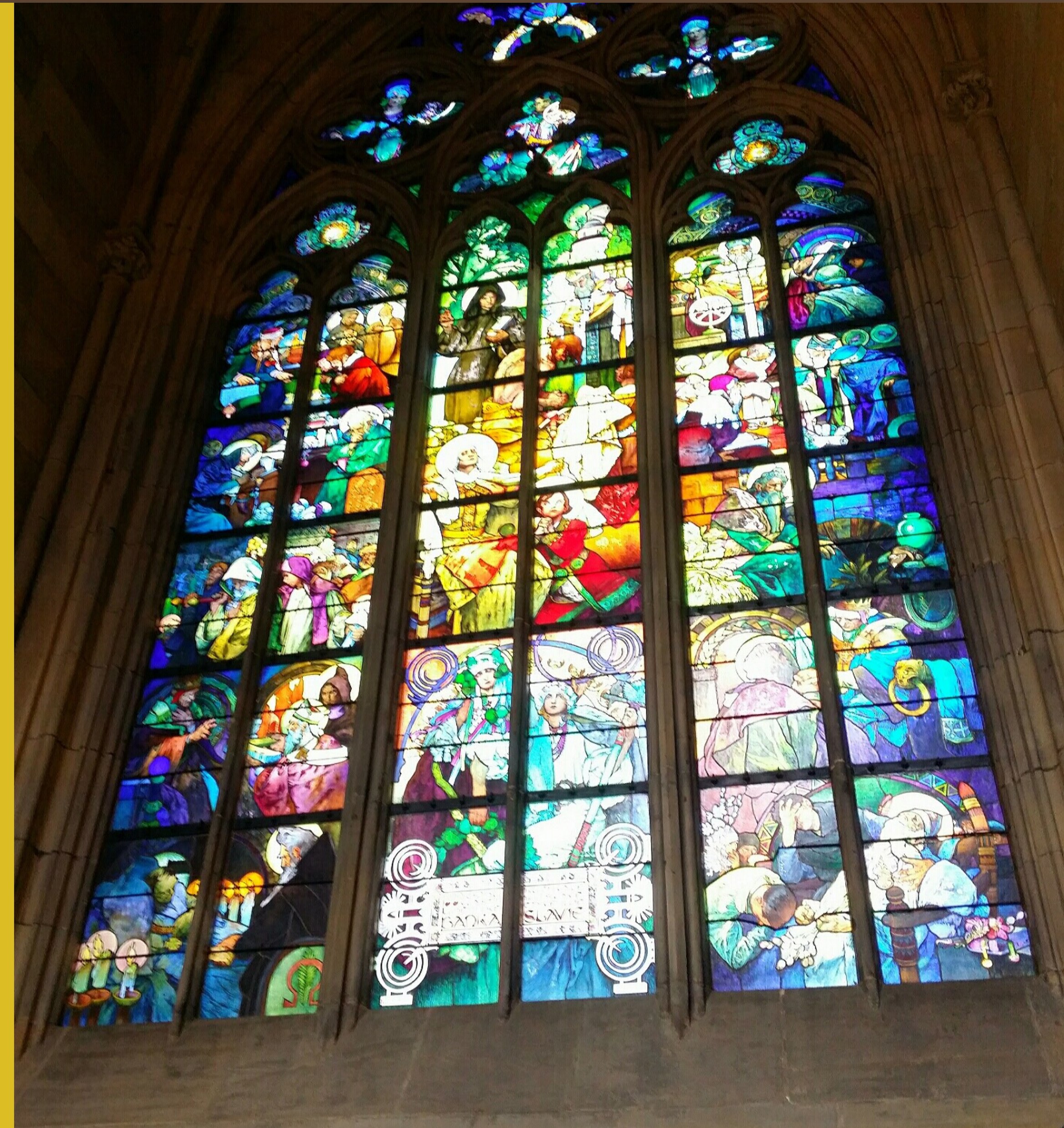
So far in this series:

1. Doubting God Himself
2. Doubting the Bible
3. Doubting God's Goodness
4. Doubting Your Salvation

Common Doubts About The Church

Have you heard statements like these:

- ✦ “I love Jesus but don’t trust organized religion.”
- ✦ “The church is full of hypocrites.”
- ✦ “Churches only want your money.”
- ✦ “Churches hate people who are different from them.”
- ✦ “I can do Jesus my way and don’t need church.”



“I love Jesus but don’t trust organized religion.”

Q: What does Jesus say about this?

“I will build My church;”

“...and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”

— Matthew 16:18b NASB95

Q: What else does the Bible say about this?

“I love Jesus but don’t trust organized religion.”

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless."

— *Ephesians 5:25–27 NAS95*

Is the church important to Jesus?

“The church is full of hypocrites.”

Q: What does Jesus say about this?

“You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye

“and then you will see clearly

“to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.”

— Matthew 7:5 NASB95

Q: What else does the Bible say about this?

“The church is full of hypocrites.”

Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

— *Ephesians 5:25–27 NAS95*

“The church is full of hypocrites.”

Q: Are there hypocrites in the church?

A: YES! 100%

Q: Are there hypocrites outside of the church?

A: YES! 100%

- ❖ A hypocrite is someone who is pretending to be something that they are not.
- ❖ It literally meant a stageplayer, an actor.
- ❖ A hypocrite is someone who professes one thing, yet does the opposite.

“The church is full of hypocrites.”

“For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate.”

— *The Apostle Paul in Romans 7:15*
NAS95



Here is the #1 Hypocrite I deal with every day

I work with him

I live with him

I go to church with him

Jesus loves this hypocrite



PLEASE FORGIVE ME



- ☑ Hypocrisy is sin
- ☑ It is the result of pride, selfishness, ego and the flesh.
- ☑ We should all strive by God's grace not to be hypocritical.
- ☑ However, we must honestly evaluate ourselves in light of God's Word.
- ☑ The church is full of hypocrites...
- ☑ ...but there is always room for one more!

IT WAS THE OTTER GUY!

“Churches only want your money.”

Q: What does Jesus say about this?



"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." – Matthew 6:19-21 NAS95

“Churches only want your money.”

Q: What else does the Bible say about this?

6“Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

7 Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed; — 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

“Biblical giving isn’t paying God for favors, it is a gift that demonstrates our love, thankfulness and indebtedness to Him.”

"For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God."

— 2 Corinthians 9:12 NAS95

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"

— 2 Corinthians 9:15 NAS95

“Churches only want your money.”

- ✦ People have no problem giving money to things they love!
- ✦ Look at the stadiums, racetracks, concert halls, restaurants, casinos, shopping malls, outlet malls, Amazon.com, etc., ad infinitum!

Is giving important to Jesus?



NO ONE
HAS EVER
BECOME
POOR
FROM
GIVING



- Maya Angelou

“Churches hate people who are different from them.”

Q: What does Jesus say about this?

But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus,

“And who is my neighbor?”

— Luke 10:29 NASB95

Who is my neighbor?

- Jesus then gave the parable of the GOOD SAMARITAN, ending with a question:
 - “Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers’ hands?” And he said, “The one who showed mercy toward him.” Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do the same.”
- Luke 10:36–37 NAS95





“Churches hate people who are different from them.”

Yes, many churches have been, or are, clubs where people of like ethnicity, interests and thinking gather.

THIS IS NOT GOD’S PLAN AT ALL!

God's Plan for the Church:



After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

— Revelation 7:9–10 NAS95

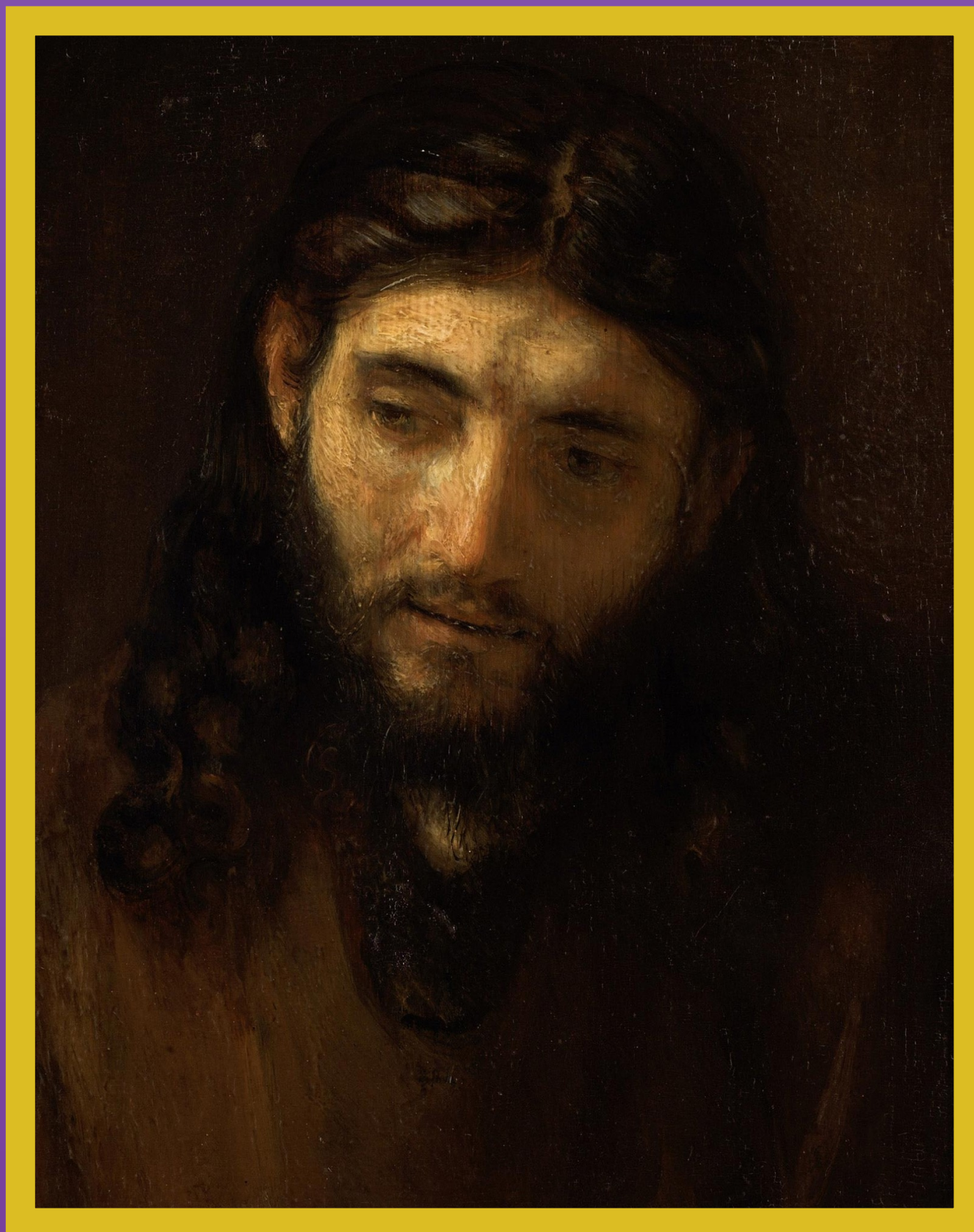
God's Church is a DIVERSE BODY from all around the world!



- God's Church isn't AMERICAN or WESTERN!
- It is for EVERYBODY, EVERYWHERE.

“I can do Jesus my way and don’t need church.”

Q: What does Jesus say about this?



“I will build my church”

— Matthew 16:18b NASB95

“I can do Jesus my way and don’t need church.”

1. Every person needs to know Jesus as Savior.

- This isn’t joining a church or performing some religious observance like baptism.
- Knowing Jesus is simply BELIEVING on Him, the risen Son of God.

2. Those who know Jesus need to be in COMMUNITY

Why Do We Need The Church?



Why Do We Need The Church?

The CHURCH is the place to:



- ✓ Grow in Christ
- ✓ Grow as a person who benefits everyone
- ✓ To share God's truth and grace lovingly
- ✓ Serve God with others
- ✓ Know that the church is the instrument God uses today!

Instead of doubting the church, we can trust Christ as we serve Him in it!

- ✓ Every church is made up of people.
- ✓ People who Jesus Christ loves, died for and gave new life in Him.
- ✓ Jesus Christ is in the midst of His church!
 - ✓ "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst." — Matthew 18:20 NAS95
 - ✓ "There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all." — Ephesians 4:4-6 NAS95



Chuck Norris

How can our church restore trust?

Juno

- ♦ Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
- ♦ Hebrews 12:2 **fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
- ♦ Hebrews. 12:3 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.



Church: A Grace Community

- ✦ It is up to all of us who are part of Grace United to make our church a grace community.
- ✦ We have a great opportunity possibly coming our way: a building!
- ✦ And this will require a growth process!



What Can I do?

- ☒ Minister grace to others.
- ☒ Make our Life Groups part of your life.
- ☒ Enter into wherever we are meeting with an attitude of worship.
- ☒ Support God's work financially.
- ☒ Find what God has specifically gifted and fitted you to do to serve Him!

