

## Heart for the House | Week 2

Welcome to CHC. We want this to be a place where you are certain that your presence matters. Your story matters. It means a great deal to me and our team that you are here with us.

As we say all the time, we would love to connect with you. We don't just say it, we mean it. I love the opportunity to say hey after the service.

I believe God has something great for you today.

Today we are ending this short 2-week series called Heart for the House. The foundation of this series is really a call to action.

Last week we talked about financial generosity and this week I want to continue to look at ways God's people should be involved in God's house.

### **1. What is the church?**

The Bible has a lot to say about God's house, the Church.

Many people today understand the church as a building.

The word "church" is a translation of the Greek word "ekklesia," which is defined as "an assembly" or "called-out ones."

The root meaning of *church* is not that of a building, but of people.

The church is the body of Christ, of which He is the head.

**Ephesians 1.22-23 | <sup>22</sup> And he subjected everything under his feet and appointed him as head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.**

The body of Christ is made up of all believers in Jesus Christ.

It's broken down into two parts as well.

**The Universal Church | Consists of everyone, everywhere, who has a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.**

**The Local Church | Consists of everyone who has a personal relationship with Jesus in a local area or region.**

## 2. What is the role of the church and why is the church so important?

**God has ordained the church, a fellowship of the flawed, to carry out his purpose and will in the world.**

When we consider the biblical teaching on the church, we realize the church is vitally important for growing in Christ. Like a branch that grows because of its connection to the tree, we thrive when we stay connected to the church.

Let's take a second to go back to the OT and learn a little about the church.

God instructed Moses to build a tabernacle—a portable tent that represented the presence of God dwelling right in the middle of his people. The tabernacle and later the temple were the places where God ordained the sacrifices to be carried out and the festivals to be celebrated.

The tabernacle and temple functioned as the central place of instruction and teaching about God and his will for Israel. From the tabernacle and temple, Israel sounded forth loud and joyful psalms of praise and worship to God.

The tabernacle and temple were not only to be viewed as the geographical center of Israel; they were also intended to be the spiritual center of Israel. Like spokes of a wheel that fan out from the hub, what occurred at these worship centers was to affect every aspect of Israelite life.

Jumping over to the NT. We see the emphasis and importance Jesus puts on the church.

In Matthew, Jesus tells Peter that He will build his church. Meaning, God is responsible for the growth and expansion of His church.

**In Hebrews 10.24-25 | <sup>24</sup> And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.**

Your connection with other believers is vital to your spiritual health and growth.

The community provided by a local church is essential for believers because the Christian life was never intended to be a solo act. That's why there are close to 60 "one another's" mentioned in the New Testament.

There is one place where I believe God's Word gives a brilliant statement that you and I can relate to and we cannot ignore.

**Ephesians 5.25 | <sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her.**

In the context of urging husbands to love their wives, Paul writes that “Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.”

God created it, gave His son for it, and loves it.

While Jesus was on earth, He was the light shining people toward God. After his death, burial, and resurrection, the Church became the light that shines people toward God.

*David Watson wrote, “It is the church that is willing to die to worldly standards that will know the power of Christ’s resurrection. It may be envied for its depths of loving relationships or for its spontaneous joy; it may be hated and persecuted for its revolutionary lifestyle exposing the hollow values and destructive selfishness of the society it seeks to serve; but it certainly cannot be ignored. When God reigns among His people, they become a city set on a hill and cannot be hid” (I Believe in the Church [Eerdmans], p. 61).*

**We are the visible expression to the world of the Savior who is presently in heaven.**

Here is where we are going to personalize it for you.

### **3. What does this mean for me?**

**Romans 12.3-8 | <sup>3</sup> For by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he should think. Instead, think sensibly, as God has distributed a measure of faith to each one. <sup>4</sup> Now as we have many parts in one body, and all the parts do not have the same function, <sup>5</sup> in the same way we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another. <sup>6</sup> According to the grace given to us, we have different gifts: If prophecy, use it according to the proportion of one’s faith; <sup>7</sup> if service, use it in service; if teaching, in teaching; <sup>8</sup> if exhorting, in exhortation; giving, with generosity; leading, with diligence; showing mercy, with cheerfulness.**

If you are a believer, you have a role to play.

**Ephesians 5.1-2 | Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children, <sup>2</sup> and walk in love, as Christ also loved us and gave himself for us, a sacrificial and fragrant offering to God.**

**Mark 16.15 | Go into the World**

**Matthew 22.37-20 | Love people**

**1 Peter 4.10-11 | Serve people**

**Matthew 5.13 | Be Salt and Light to the World**

I think we can sum it all up.....**It’s not just a service project, it’s a lifestyle.**

We have an important role and responsibility to live these things out.

God wants to use you. Here is a question I want you to go home and chew on this week.  
**What is standing in my way of God using me?**

If you feel weak, limited, or ordinary, you are the exact type of person God loves to use.

Here is where churches get in trouble...we start producing consumers instead of contributors.

If you go to a church only looking what it can do for you, you will never be satisfied. You're looking for something from the church that it never promised to do.

God is building something special here at City Hope. The last 2 weeks we've seen some remarkable numbers when it comes to attendance. We had people sitting on the window seal...but I want to make something perfectly clear.

**We are not building an audience. We are building an army.**

Hope dealers, truth tellers, prayer warriors, servant leaders, disciple makers.

People who love God and are not afraid to go into the world and treat people like Jesus treated people.

I'm going to challenge you through Gods Word to live inside of the calling and gifting He has placed on your life.

We're going to equip you and help you get ready to live this out.

We're going to push you to take risks and be uncomfortable in sharing your story.

We're going to lead you into realizing your God-given gifts and your purpose here on earth and help you become that person.

**The world doesn't need another full building of people on Sundays...The world needs a building full of people who are going to go live as Christ every day.**

Conclusion |

Ok, Bobby all of this sounds great. What does that really look like for me and my family? I understand what the church is, we believe its important, and we want to be apart of this local body.

The Loop is our process for you going all in. There are just 3 steps. The first step is all about who we are and what we are all about. Gods vision for CHC and why we believe we are here. At the end of step 1 you will have an opportunity to become an official partner.

Partner is what we are calling our membership. This is vital because we don't need members, we need partners. Members has this its all about us connotation....Partners mean we are in this together to reach the mission.

You've probably heard us say our mission...***Inviting everyday people to experience the hope of Jesus in every way.***

We want all of us joining together in this mission.

You will hear and get an understanding of what it means to be a partner at CHC. You will receive love, care, connection, equipping, accountability, encouragement, pushing...all of it.

Step 2 of the Loop is all about you. We have designed this step to help you find your gifts and passions and realize who God made you to be. Discover Purpose

Step 3 we will then take your gifts and passions and see where and how God wants to use you within and outside of the church to start making a difference.

Step 1 will be offered on 3 different dates in FEB.

What else?

Serving Opportunities – Ministries

Here is what I believe...When we serve inside the church, its our training ground for service outside the church. We love and care and shepherd and teach.....so that when we leve the walls, its in us and on us. Who are you serving?

Small Groups – Connection

Relationships are everything. This is what all of us crave. We need people.

Giving Challenge – Obedience – God gave his first and best, so should we.

We have forms you can fill out and do it online. Put God to the test. Starting giving and stay faithful for the next 90 days. Money back guarantee.

The Church is the bride of Christ....may we always do our best to treat her that way.