

WHY DO WE DO CHURCH PART I

AUGUST 14-15, 2021

INTRODUCTION

- We were told during lockdown we were not essential, but maybe we are far more essential than we've known.
- Maybe we should ask why do we do church?
- Why are over two billion people around the world going to church every week?
- Why would you say you go to church? What are the benefits?
- We believe winning at WOL is: "A transformed life demonstrated by a passion for God and compassion for people."
- Not words but action, a changed life that loves God and loves people...that is a win at WOL.
- WOL Five core values: Healing, Sending, Equipping, Caring, Relationships

I. WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

- It is not a building. It is not an event to attend.
- Acts 2:41-42, 46 NLT/LB, "...They joined with the other believers and committed themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to the fellowship...They worshiped together regularly...and met in small groups in homes for communion, and shared meals with great joy and thankfulness."
- It is a spiritual family.
- The early church: They were together. They grew together. They served together. That is the church!

II. WHY IS CHURCH IMPORTANT?

- Because Jesus said it was.
- Matthew 16:18, "...I will build My church; and the gates of hades will not overpower it."

1st - It is God's family - 1 Peter 1:3, 1 Timothy 3:15

2nd - Because God is crazy about you! - Ephesians 1:4-5

3rd - He fulfills His will through the Church

- Ephesians 3:10-11, "...through the church the... wisdom of God should be made known to all..."

4th - Christ died for the Church – Ephesians 5:25,27

5th - It is through the Church that God intends to meet the world's problems - Ephesians 3:20

III. THE CHURCH AT WOL

- Everything we do comes out of our five core values.
- Healing the hurting - Luke 4:18-19, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free..."
- Sending or outreach - Matthew 28:19-20, "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations..."
- Equipping - Ephesians 4:11-12
 - This means more than going to Bible study; it includes both teaching and training.
- Caring for the needy - Deuteronomy 15:10, "Give freely without begrudging it..."
 - God blesses us to make us a blessing.
 - It is with them that we gain the heart of God.
- Relationships - Acts 2:42-47, "All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals, and to prayer..."
 - Programs do not transform peoples' lives.
 - People touching people build life and the kingdom.

CLOSE

- Many of you have been raised as spectators...you watch the game, the TV, the computer screen, the video game.
- But you were created for good works! To get into the game and off of the bench.