

A person wearing a headlamp stands in a snowy mountain landscape under a starry night sky. The person is in the lower-left foreground, looking towards the mountains. The background features large, snow-covered rock formations and evergreen trees. The sky is filled with stars and the Milky Way galaxy.

# VISION

*Sunday*

PART 2

A dark, atmospheric landscape with a person's silhouette in the foreground looking out over a valley. The scene is dimly lit, with a person standing on a hillside in the lower left, looking towards a valley. The background shows dark, jagged mountains under a dark sky. The overall mood is contemplative and visionary.

# Encounter : Equip : Engage

## Building a Church empowered to **ENGAGE** our city

**VISION**  
*Sunday*

# The Church needs to rediscover:

1. Call
2. Clarity
3. Catalysts
4. Challenges

## Mark 16:15 - 18

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

## Matthew 28:18 - 20

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you;** and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

# 1. Jesus: Grace and Truth

## The Law:

- Stirs up sin (Rom 7)
- Was given to make sin increase (Rom 5)
- Gives us knowledge of sin (Rom 3)
- Points out your faults, but does not help you
- Makes you sin conscious (Heb 10)

# 1. Jesus: Grace and Truth

## Sinners:

- Was to disobey the law, all the statutes and ordinances.
- The issue was the SIN nature.
- 'Sinners' is an expression of the old nature, the 'Fruit of the Spirit' is the expression of the new nature, the new creation.
- Fruit of the flesh, fruit of the Spirit.

# 1. Jesus: Grace and Truth

## The new nature:

- You **MUST** be born again. (John 3)
- The New Nature only comes through new birth, as that is how the old nature came; at birth.
- “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every **CREATURE...**” until they are a **NEW CREATURE** (2 Cor 5)




# Mark 16

'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to  
**EVERY CREATURE**'

# 2 Cor 5:17

'If anyone is in Christ, he is a **NEW CREATURE**; old things have passed away, behold, all things have become new.'

Every Creature  New Creature

# Rom 1:13 - 16

“Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles. **I AM A DEBTOR** both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. So, as much as is in me, **I AM READY** to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. For **I AM NOT ASHAMED** of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”

# 2. Paul's approach to the Gospel?

- I am a debtor
- I am ready
- I am not ashamed

## 2. Paul's approach to the Gospel?

I am in a position where someone else is owed something which I have.

- "Freely you have received, freely give"
- "What I have, I give" (Acts 3)
- "What I have, I owe..." (Paul)

# 2. Paul's approach to the Gospel?

**'Both to Greeks and barbarians'**

***'Barbarians'***

- Gentiles who were not greek speaking
- One whose speech is rude or rough, harsh.
- Brutal
- A Scythian - Barbarians of the worst sort.

## 2. Paul's approach to the Gospel?

Col 3:9 - 11

"Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the **OLD MAN** with his deeds, and have put on the **NEW MAN** who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created **him**, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, **barbarian, Scythian**, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all."

# 2. Paul's approach to the Gospel?

- **I am ready**

“The spirit is indeed WILLING, but the flesh is weak.” Mark 14:38

## 2. Paul's approach to the Gospel?

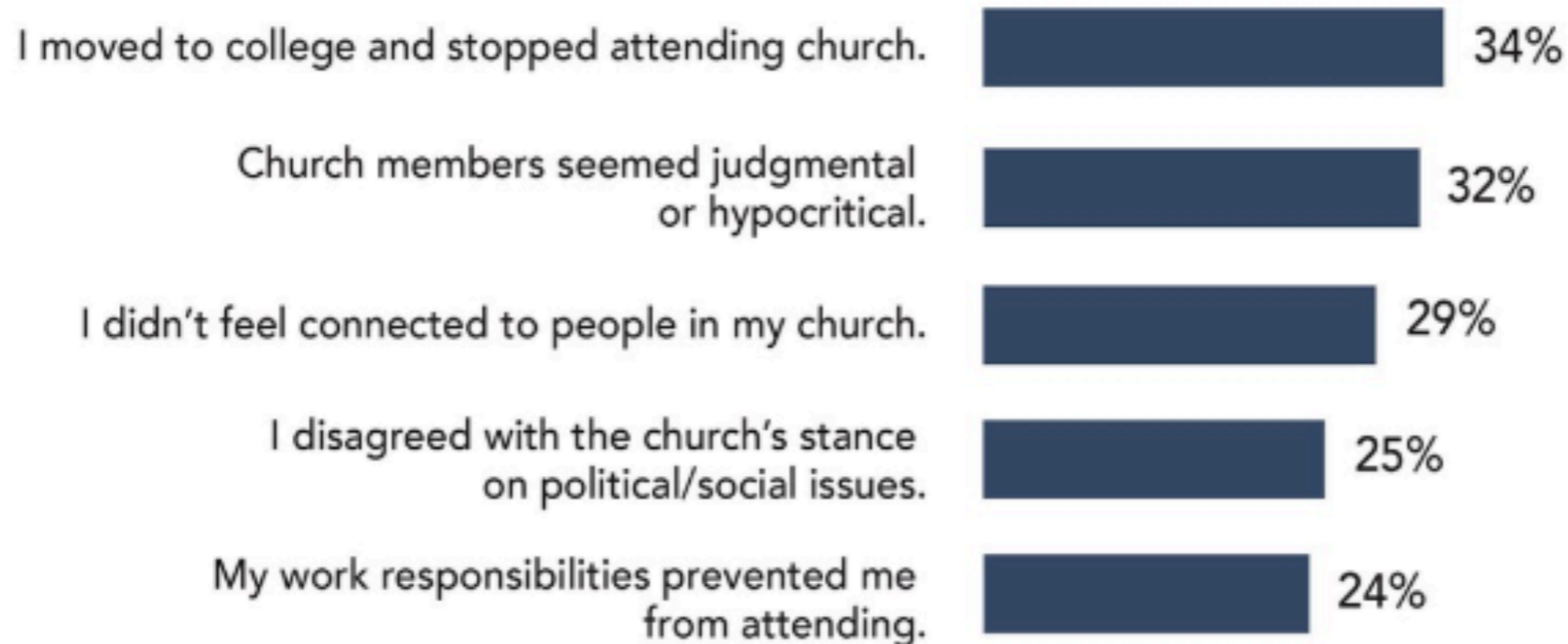
- I am **NOT** ashamed

*"I am crucified* with Christ, it is no longer I who live, but Christ liveth in me..."



# Top five reasons church dropouts say they stopped attending church

Among young adults (ages 23-30) who attended a Protestant church regularly for at least a year in high school:



Notes: Respondents were asked to select all that apply.

# 3. Community is Gods way

*"Teach them to observe all things that I have commanded you"*

**You will teach them a whole new way of living life together, NOT BEFORE SEEN.**

# 3. Community is Gods way

## Stats of extreme loneliness / isolation:

- 35% of all US adults over the age of 45.
- 80% of all those under 18.
- 40 % of those over 65

## Isolation / loneliness is linked to:

- 29% increase in the risk of CHD
- Glucose regulation, metabolism, inflammation control, reproductive and endocrine systems.
- Almost half of all incidences of psychological health challenges; SPECIFICALLY ANXIETY.

# 3. Community is Gods way

*"Teach them to observe all things that I have commanded you"*

Prov 12:25, "Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, but a good word makes it glad."

Prov 18:1, "A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment."

*"Love does not seek its own, OR, Love is not self seeking."*

# 3. Community is Gods way

*"Teach them to observe all things that I have commanded you"*

- What are we brining people into?

Entrance into a biblical Christian community should be a **DISTINCT** difference from anything they have experienced before

# 3. Community is Gods way

*"Teach them to observe all things that I have commanded you"*

- **Forgive one another, as Christ forgave you (Col 3:13)**
- **Accept one another then, just as Christ accepted you. (Rom 15:7)**
- **Love one another, as I (Jesus) have loved you. (John 13:34)**

# 3. Community is Gods way

*"Teach them to observe all things that I have commanded you"*

**John 13:33 - 35**

*"Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, 'Where I am going, you cannot come,' so now I say to you. **A new commandment I give to you**, that you love one another; **as I have loved you**, that you also love one another. **By this ALL will know** that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

# 3. Community is Gods way

*"Teach them to observe all things that I have commanded you"*

## ● Seals of our Common Covenant:

### 1. Love

For the world to see. (John 13:31 - 35)

### 2. The Holy Spirit

For the spiritual realm. (Eph 1:13)



A dark, atmospheric landscape with a person's silhouette in the foreground looking out over a valley. The scene is dimly lit, with a person standing on a rocky outcrop in the lower left, looking towards a vast, dark valley. The sky is a deep, dark blue, and the mountains in the distance are silhouetted against a slightly lighter sky. The overall mood is contemplative and expansive.

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