

RESET: Church - Sunday June 7, 2020
Hope Community Church – Church Online

Discussion Starter(s): Was your experience of “church” better or worse during lockdown?

Digging Deeper

When people start a relationship with Jesus, they also start a relationship with his church. The Scriptures assume that every follower of Jesus will be vitally connected with the church.

1. Read Matthew 16:17-18. Make some observations. What did the word “church” mean then, and what comes to mind for people when they hear the word now?
2. Read Acts 2:42-47. How did the early followers of Jesus “do church”?

Changing Our Hearts

Church is both a privilege and a discipline for us. Jesus’ view of church is often very different to ours, and the baggage we carry about “church”. A key to heart change is bridging this gap, with the grace of the gospel.

3. What makes church difficult for you?
4. In the message, Daryl talked about the cultural “glasses” we wear that influence the way we think about church. What were they? How might they play out for us today as we engage with church?
5. What does the Father, and the Lord Jesus, think of church? Why is this so important to remember?
6. Why is “church” so essential for our Christian life and formation?
7. Do you agree or disagree with this quote? Why?
“Spiritual formation occurs primarily in the context of community...Long-term interpersonal relationships are the crucible of genuine progress in the Christian life. People who stay grow. People who leave do not grow....It is a simple but profound biblical reality that we both grow and thrive together or we do not grow much at all.”
(When Church Was A Family)

Living it Out

Think about how God may want you to hit RESET on the way you relate to church going forward. God may have changes to make in your life.

8. How would you respond to someone who says the following:
“Online church is the way of the future and much more suited to my lifestyle”
“I find that I don’t get much out of church”
“I have been hurt by church and it is better for me if I don’t return.”
“I ache for deeper and more authentic Christian relationships. What should I do?”
9. What rock or rhythm around being part of a church would you like to implement going forward? Be practical and specific.
10. What one thing is God calling you to do as a result of this study?