



What is your impression of “church”? What is the impression of someone who doesn’t go to church?

If you attended the “First Pharisee Church” of Jesus’ day, what would be your impression of “church”?

Reset and Refocus... READ John 3:1-17 At the heart of the Church is...

1. The _____ of the Father!

- *John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son...”*
- *Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...”*
- *I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul...(Luther’s explanation to 1st Article)*

What happens to the Church when creation is dismissed?

2. The _____ of the Son!

What happens to the Church when the saving work of Jesus is dismissed?

- *Matthew 23:27 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites!28... on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of **hypocrisy** and wickedness.*
- *Luke 11:46 Jesus replied, “And you experts in the law, woe to you, because **you load people down with burdens** they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them.*

- *Matthew 23:13-14 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven in men’s faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.*
- *John 3:17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.*
- *John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*
- *Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.*
- *2 Corinthians 5:14-15 For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.*

3. The _____ of the Holy Spirit!

What happens to the Church when the power of the Spirit is at work?

- *John 3:5 Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.*
- *1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*
- *I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.*