

# Rediscover CHURCH

Why the Body of Christ Is Essential



## CHAPTER 2

Who can belong to the church?

LEADERS READ: *"Without conversion, without being born again, there is no church to rediscover"* (pg. 37).

LEADERS ASK:

- Have you ever thought about WHO can belong to the church?
- Should we have an expectation for who can be members of our churches?
- Do expectations, isolate hurting people that need the church?

LEADERS SAY: When we talk about this some people get uncomfortable because they think we are saying that all people are not welcome to come to our building for a service, which for most people is church. The church is us, believers and this is who these expectations are for. In the many scriptures in the NT that talk about who the church is and what we should be doing, these letters are written to believers. The believers ARE the church both locally and universally. 1 Cor. 12:13

LEADERS READ: In the last 20 years, we have seen a movement among churches that we should do whatever it takes to bring the lost into our churches in order to hear the gospel.

- How does this differ from what the Bible instructs? Eph. 4:9-16
- How does this method hurt discipleship within our churches? Acts 20:28 says leaders are to take great care over the church that is in your care and watch over them...it doesn't say they should do that for the lost.

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- How could a lost person affect a church negatively?

LEADERS SAY: Because the local/ universal church should be made up of believers and because scripture tells us we should be set apart from the world, it causes us to act in ways that lost people won't understand.

*"When a church delights together in the joy of conversion, believers gain perspective on what still divides them. The holy temple of God is not so easily tore down. (40)"*

LEADERS ASK: What are some ways, because our churches are made up of believers, that we SHOULD operate that unbelievers would not understand?

**\*\*IMPORTANT:** This does not mean we do not care for the lost, evangelize the lost, etc. But the corporate church service is NOT made for these things. It is for believers.

LEADERS SAY: Our churches should be loving, hospitable, and joyous, celebrating with other believers what Christ has accomplished for us.  
Col. 3:16

LEADERS ASK: So how can our services influence visitors who come into our building that could be lost? ANSWER: *"When you're converted, you can't help but worship. You look forward to gathering and worshipping with other believers in Jesus.(42)"*