

New Member E-Course

Hi, my name is Daniel, and I'm really excited to hear that you're interested in knowing more about Jesus Center and further connecting.

Before we get into the content of this video, could you join me in a word of prayer?

Lord Jesus, we thank you that you are the head of your church and that you purchased your church with your blood. We thank you for the work of the Spirit, that you are leading every single one of us. And let us be yielded to you. Let us be led by you.

And we pray that your will would be done through this house, through this church, through this family. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Part 1: Why Should I Belong to a Local Church?

I want to ask the question, why should I belong to a local church? Well, in 1 Peter 2:5, Peter says that you're like living stones being built up as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood and to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God.

⁵ you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 2:5, ESV)

So we are likened to these living stones.

As a living stone, you're uniquely shaped by God, but you're also set by God in a community of other living stones.

Something about a living stone that's being built up to be a house is that they are connected, they're not isolated. And each stone is a part of something bigger.

And so we as believers need to be connected with other believers and to be part of something bigger. God is building a spiritual house that will minister to him, that will offer these spiritual sacrifices to him.

And I believe that's why we need a community. We need the local church because we're individually these stones, but collectively we become this house.

In Psalm 68:6, it says that God will set the solitary in families. A solitary is somebody who's isolated. But here it says that God will set them in a family.

⁶ God settles the solitary in a home; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious dwell in a parched land. (Psalm 68:6, ESV)

Again, a living stone is not moving around; it's set in place. And I do believe that God sets people in specific church families.

When you study that word family, in Psalm 68:6, it's this word *baith*, and it means household, it means temple, it means a dwelling place.

And so God wants us to be part of his house, and so he will set us in place. And I believe that he's going to lead you somewhere, and perhaps it's here, and that's why you're watching this video.

But the church is also likened to a human body.

In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 12 takes time to explain how every single one of us, we're like members of the body.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many.

¹⁵ If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell?

¹⁸ *But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."*

²² *On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴ which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.*

²⁶ *If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. (1 Corinthians 12:12-27, ESV)*

And so there's the hand, there's the eye, there's the ear, there's the nose, there's the feet, there's the mouth. Here we all have one body, but there are many members and their functions are unique. They're different, and we need each other.

So Paul says, one body part shouldn't tell another body part we don't need you, because if the ear tells the mouth I don't need you, then who's going to do the talking? If the mouth tells the ear I don't need you, who's going to do the hearing?

We are all a part of the body of Christ. And so there's one body, but with many parts. We all bring something to the table. We all have an important function, and we have a purpose, just like how all the parts of our body have a unique purpose.

Now, I do want to add, though, when a body part gets disconnected from the body, it begins to rot. And I do believe it's very important for us as believers who are in Christ to be connected to the body of Christ.

In Psalm 92:13, it says, those who are planted in the house of the Lord will flourish.

¹³ They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God. (Psalm 92:13, ESV)

So as we're connected, as we're planted, I do believe that we'll begin to flourish in our relationship with God and in our own unique callings and destinies as well.

In the Book of Hebrews, the writer of Hebrews shares with us two assumptions about the believer. Number one, we're supposed to be assembling together. In Hebrews 10:25, it says, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some, but exhorting one another.

²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:25, ESV)

That simply means encouraging one another and calling each other to Christlikeness and to the purposes of God.

But it says much more. We have to gather much more as you see the day approaching. And so as we come closer and closer to the end of this age, even more so should the church be gathering.

So in the Book of Hebrews, it says the church should be assembling together frequently, often. And also the writer in Hebrews says that we ought to be under church leadership. In Hebrews 13:7, 17, he makes it clear that if you're a believer, you should be under spiritual leadership. And those spiritual leaders are going to have to give an account for how they served you, how they led you.

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ¹⁷ Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy

*and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.
(Hebrews 13:7, 17, ESV)*

And so let's just be clear. This is not to say that we tolerate any kind of ungodly control, abuse, or manipulation from people who have that title of a spiritual leader or that position. We're not for any of that. However, we are for being part of a local fellowship. Because if you're not part of a local fellowship, you don't have leaders over you.

But if we are part of a local fellowship, there are leaders that are serving us, that are seeking the Lord. There are leaders who are there to serve us, to protect us, to invest in us. And those are leaders who are going to have to give an account before God. We see that in the Book of Hebrews.

As we continue to study the Book of Acts, we see that there are local church expressions. There's a local church in Jerusalem, a local church now forming in Antioch. And when you read Paul's Epistles, they're directed to local churches. When you read the Book of Revelation, chapters 2 and 3, Jesus sends seven letters to seven local churches.

And so I like to think of it like the NFL. You can be part of the NFL, but you're also part of a team if you're part of the NFL. You're not just part of the NFL as a player if you're not on a team.

And so some Christians may say, well, I'm just part of the body of Christ.

Yes, that's true, and that's amazing. But where are we serving? You know, who are we connected with? Like, who's developing us? Who are we developing? Who is our coach, who is leading us?

And so all that is important. In the early church, actually, when a Christian would move to another region, they would take something called the letter of commendation. It was written by their church leaders, and they would take it to that new region they're moving into and present it to the church leaders there.

So those church leaders recognized that this family is part of a local church, that they're real believers, and they're in good standing. And so it was like a passport, if you will, to go from one church to another.

And so, they would be welcomed and trusted by the fellow believers in a new region if they had received that affirmation from the region that they were part of before, the local church they're part of there.

So the local church is a place where Christians will connect, where Christians will grow, Christians will serve, Christians will grow in their credibility that they are real followers of Jesus Christ.

And by the way, if you were part of a different local church before you were led to this one, I just pray that you left honorably and you let your leaders know. And, you know, I understand that sometimes God leads us out of one place to another. I also understand that sometimes there can be major differences and disagreements.

But I just pray that you would have a heart of love and a heart of honor towards the church that you came from and because I do believe that affects your new season here with us. So make sure that your heart is clean and that you're walking in love and that you have left in an honorable way.

Now we have to have some realistic expectations of what it means to be part of a church, because none of us are fully sanctified yet.

You know, none of us are walking as a perfect reflection of Jesus Christ right now in all of our actions, thoughts, feelings. And so, you know, the church is a place where there are still people who are all a work in progress, where we are all in process. So if you're looking for a perfect church, you're not going to find one. And, you know, the saying goes, you shouldn't join one either, or else you'll ruin it if you join it.

But I just want us to have realistic expectations that the church is a place where people are still growing in Christ, and we're still spiritually maturing. It's like a spiritual hospital. So there may be some who aren't fully being their best selves yet.

This is like a workout gym, if you will, a spiritual workout gym. And some people at the gym are ripped, and they have six packs, and they've been there for a long time, and they're very active members.

Then there's others who are there because they're just getting started, and they need to be there, and it's good for them to be there. And so that's church.

So I just want us to have realistic expectations. The church in Corinth, we can read about it in the New Testament. They had these real supernatural gifts, but they still had character issues.

And when Jesus wrote the letters to the seven churches, actually, most of those churches were failing. And they were failing in many areas.

Yet Jesus was still committed to them, still speaking to them, and he was still in their midst. And so Jesus loves his church.

In Acts 20:28, it says he bought his church with his blood. And so that touches me, man. That was wrecking me that he paid for his church with his own blood. That's how much he loves and values his church.

²⁸ *Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. (Acts 20:28, ESV)*

And Jesus told Peter, if you love me, you're going to care for my sheep, you're going to feed my sheep, you're going to tend to my lambs. And so Jesus loves his church, and so should we.

Part 2: The Jesus Center Story, So Far...

And so I want to share now a little bit about our Jesus Center story.

How did we become a local church here in the South Bay? Well, in 2009, I was serving as an associate pastor in Anaheim, and I had this spiritual experience that came out of left field.

And I won't go into the details of that encounter, but basically the South Bay was placed on my radar. Before it wasn't. I lived in Orange County. I grew up there. But the South Bay was highlighted to me in a very, very clear way. And, you know, I believe that the Holy Spirit was showing me that it would be a place of revival and it would affect the Los Angeles region.

Now, I want to just stop and say, I'm not saying that this is the only place God wants to move, so wherever you are you should move here. I believe God wants to move everywhere. Okay? And I'm excited about God moving everywhere.

However, Jesus did say that the Holy Spirit will show us the things to come. And I believe that the Holy Spirit was showing me that.

One of the things that he was leading me to do was to come to the South Bay and to contend for a revival here that would touch Los Angeles and Southern California.

So since 2009, I knew that one day I would move to the South Bay and that a revival center would be established. In fact, that's the vision I saw. It was a large white building, and inside, it was an international revival center. Cars are streaming down the freeways, up the freeways, to be part of what God was doing here in the South Bay.

So, again, this is like four years before we even started the church. In 2012, our church was having a conference in Orange County, and there was a prophetic minister who asked me to stand, and he gave a prophetic utterance, saying that he believed that the Holy Spirit was saying that I was going to be sent out of that house with a blessing, and we would go to another region to bring revival to another area.

And so that got the conversation going between my pastor and me, and he gave us his blessing.

He said, Daniel, you can talk to whoever you need to talk to. And, yeah, let's just put it out there. Let's see how we can support this church plant. And so we actually planted the church five months later, May 2013, with about 10 to 20 people who felt led to come with us to help us get started.

Now, that first year, we met on the second floor of an office space in North Torrance, and we started to outgrow that space. It was a very small space. And we found this dance studio in the city of Lomita, and we began to meet there.

There were some prophetic things that happened that led us into that space, and we started meeting there.

And that's where the church began to grow a lot more. And for the first 10 years, our motto was bringing hearts back to God. And that seems to be the story that we hear even to this day often, is that hearts are coming back to God.

You know, it's one thing to put a butt in a seat, but it's another thing when hearts come back to God. And so that's been our mission, and that's been how the Holy Spirit has been working through this community, that hearts that have drifted from God, their hearts are coming back to their Creator, to their Heavenly Father.

And that's what we began to see. And in that first year, we received three mandates. And we believe that every church is unique, but for Jesus Center, we were called to three things.

We were called to have services where the Holy Spirit is welcomed and the Holy Spirit is not quenched or grieved, but that his power can be released. Services where the Holy Spirit will lead versus whatever's on the schedule, whatever our agendas are.

And so that was the first mandate, Holy Spirit services. The second mandate was a house of prayer, that we would be a house of prayer for our region and in our region.

And number three, it was mass discipleship, that we would see many, many disciples. Believers becoming true disciples of Jesus, and discipleship happening and disciples multiplying. And so that's been our threefold mandate.

We talk about those threefold assignments. We believe that's all part of our assignment, and we talk about it often here at Jesus Center.

All right, so the church began to grow in 2013 and 2014. I find that people often would comment that they would sense the tangible presence of God when they would come to our church.

And it didn't matter where we met, wherever we were. It was the Lord's presence with us, and it was something that others could experience.

Just another interesting note, in 2014, we established an official board and bylaws. And board and bylaws are very important when it comes to accountability in a church.

In 2015, we felt like the Lord said, "Get a building," because we were using, like, dozens of buildings at that point, or maybe a dozen. It felt like dozens. But, you know, we probably went through a dozen buildings at that point.

And the Lord was saying, find your own building. And it was initially very discouraging because doors weren't opening. But through further prayer, the Lord said, just find a place that will be a house of prayer.

And so we found a small office space, and we said, this is the resting place. This is going to be the place where we minister to the Lord. And so we found a little space here in South Torrance. And the owner of the whole business park liked us.

And he said, Daniel, I like what you did with your little space, and I know you want a bigger space for your church. One of the warehouses in the back is going to be available, and I want to help you build out that warehouse. I want to help you get your permits, and I want you to move your church here, too, so you can have your prayer room here and you can have your church back there.

And, man, that was amazing because we had knocked on so many doors, and it seemed like we were going nowhere. But we just took that one step of obedience to get a prayer room.

Next thing you know, we were building out a warehouse space. We called that the revival center project because we believe that we were sent here to build a revival center.

So, in 2016, we completed the building. We dedicated the building in August. And I think about that as an important milestone.

But I'm also mindful that when I look back, the best thing about church is not the building we were in. It's the people we were with. You know, it's really the people.

The church is more than a building. It's the people again, we're the living stones. There may be physical stones or here we have a lot of concrete around us, but it's really the people. The people, you know, make the church special.

In the year 2020, we declared, we're going to go beyond the walls. Sure enough, Covid breaks out. We're all forced beyond the walls.

And we focused our attention in San Pedro because, at the time, there was a great need there for compassion ministry. We were running a food pantry out of San Pedro. We eventually opened the second location, and we were given a building because all those buildings were not rented during COVID. As COVID subsided, the landlord wanted us to sign a more official lease.

At the time, we were not in a position to do so. So we came together to our original location. We went from two campuses back to one location. And that ended up being a blessing, too, because in 2023, we started experiencing these outpourings of the Holy Spirit.

Before, services were more predictable. You know, we would end in about 70, 80 minutes, and things would go according to plan, but we started experiencing more of an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

You know, Ezekiel has this vision where when he was ankle deep in the river, he still had control, but then the river kept getting deeper and deeper, and there was less control.

And so for us, it felt like the waters were rising in the year 2023. And the Holy Spirit was moving, encountering people. You know, worship would just—it would extend. Not because we were trying to extend it just for the sake of extending. We were seeing moves of the Spirit, momentum in the Spirit.

In fact, my daughter was telling me that, yeah, dad, you know, I remember as a kid, I would just walk into the sanctuary after our Sunday school was done, and

it would be like all these people were on the floor encountering God, and demons would be coming out of people.

And so to this day, my daughter's not scared of demons because she's just used to seeing a lot of them being chased out in the Name of Jesus and people being set free.

And so the year 2023, we're seeing people being healed, a lot more healings. I think we went through even a season of, like months where there are notable healings and miracles every single week.

And it still happens very often in our community. But we saw people having powerful encounters with God. Including me. Including me. During that time, the Lord really restored me and revived me.

You know, I had been pastoring now for about nine years, and I had been burnt out. I was tired. I was carrying a lot of wounds, from just being in ministry and not processing everything with the Lord and just being busy.

And yet the year 2023 was very, very special because it was the year where I believe that the Lord was bringing me back to my first love. And it was a year where he was just pouring out his Spirit upon me, and he was just cleansing me and healing me, renewing me, reviving me. It was a time of realignment for our church and refreshing as well.

And so, again, remember those three things we were called to do: to have services where the Holy Spirit is welcomed. And now we're actually walking in that.

The next thing was the house of prayer, right? Number two was House of Prayer. Number three was Mass Discipleship. But number two, in the year 2024, we committed to a house of prayer. And so every Friday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., we had worship and prayer happening. It was truly a beautiful season.

I think we calculated there was a thousand hours of corporate prayer and worship that happened that year and the next year as well. But it was these two years of just really being a house of prayer as a church, being at the feet of Jesus, just loving him, loving his presence, and interceding.

And then when we stepped into the year 2025, it was the year of evangelism, where the Lord put on our hearts to win a thousand people to Jesus in our region. And so we relaunched a food pantry.

We had weekly outreaches going all around our city. Then we also started targeting the schools in our city and in the South Bay. We would go with pizza, we would go with Bibles, and we saw many, many, many people come to Jesus Christ.

Also in the year 2025, we weren't even focusing on building new buildings or anything. We were just focusing on winning souls and reaching our community.

And yet, you know, the Lord presented an opportunity to us where we were able to take a brand new space that was next to our original space. We built out a beautiful sanctuary here, and our old building became the family center. And so, yeah, we're so thankful.

In the year 2024, we had kind of outgrown our space. And we could have done multiple services, but again, because we felt like we needed to give the Holy Spirit a lot of room, and we needed to have flexibility.

And just in that season, it didn't feel like we were supposed to do multiple services. And so we ended up finding larger venues. We were at a Jewish synagogue for a season, and then we were at Torrance High School for a season. Then the Lord opened this up, and so we were able to build out a new space right here where a Hindu temple previously occupied.

So I'm in that space right now, and I'm just looking around, and it's just—I'm so thankful. It's like a dream space, and it's larger, and we're able to use our original building. And it was just such a great situation. Thank you, Lord.

So this year, 2026, our focus has been, let's get planted. Let's invite people to be planted in the house of God. And let's be fruitful and let's multiply.

We want to, yes, reach people for Christ, but we also want them to receive a spiritual family, to really be rooted and grounded in a local church where they can continue to grow as disciples of Jesus.

And we believe that this is a year where we're going to continue to see disciples multiply. And so just to kind of sum it up, the last 13 years here, I feel like the Lord gave us a lot of grace in the beginning to start.

And yet, there are a lot of battles that we faced as a church, a lot of pain in the process, a lot of struggles. We made a lot of mistakes. But God's always been faithful. He's always been good. And I can say that by his grace, his presence has marked our ministry.

Part 3: Jesus Center Values and Vision

Now I want to share just our values and vision. So our vision comes from our values. So when you hear this, every part of our vision, it's attached to a value that we have, and it's really springing forth from that value.

We envision a diverse church because we value a diverse church. We dream of being a multi-generational, multi-ethnic church because that's what we value.

We had a marketing guru come to our church, and he was just attending for a season. He said the big elephant in the room is that this church is so diverse. How do people from all different walks of life come together and form one family? And I just shared with them, the common denominator is Jesus Christ. He is the glue.

And you know, and that was true of the early church too. They had these powerful people with tons of money, landlords, worshiping together with slaves. And they were all part of one church because that's the power of the gospel. That's the power of the gospel. Jesus is enough to bring us all together. And you know, we in this church come from many different cultures, but we believe that the culture of the kingdom of God is superior, is greater. And so we gather under King Jesus.

And so in this church, we have different generations, different nationalities. And everyone has their own strengths. Here we are not to compete with each other, but to complete each other. We want to honor each other versus being annoyed with one another.

And so, yeah, this is a very diverse church, and we count that as a blessing. The other week, somebody said, I've never been to a church that was diverse like this. He said, this is what heaven must look like. This is what heaven must look like. Amen to that.

Okay. We also value and envision an active church. So we don't believe in the one-man show here where you just see, you know, the superstar do it all. No, I'm not trying to be a medicine man. Neither are any of the pastors on our team.

We want to build a hospital. In those villages there's this medicine man and all these people come to him to get help. But here we're trying to build a hospital, and that's why it takes all hands on deck.

A hospital has all kinds of departments, all kinds of people, all kinds of gifts, all kinds of specialists. And they all join together for a common mission and they build a hospital.

That's what our goal is here. Because a hospital can help a lot more people than the medicine man can. I believe that you have a part to play. We're all part of this and what God is doing here so that we can serve our region.

So in Ephesians 4:11-12, it says that the role of the ministers is not to do all the ministry, but to equip the church to do the work of the ministry.

¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, (Ephesians 4:11-12, ESV)

And so Jesus Center is an equipping center. We want to see all people, all members of this family activated. What do I mean by activated? We want to see all the members of this church doing the works that Jesus did. That's John 14:12.

¹² "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. (John 14:12, ESV)

We want to see signs and wonders following all of us here because Jesus says signs and wonders will follow those who believe. Not just pastors or apostles or prophets, but signs and wonders will follow all who believe.

We want to be in step with the Spirit. We want to, like Jesus, see what the Father is doing. We want to be all activated to really flow with the Holy Spirit, to be a hose, if you will, for the living water of the Holy Spirit.

We want to all be people who know the voice of God. We want to all be people who can recognize what the Father's doing. We want to all be people who can pray the prayer of faith and to release an encouraging word or to pray for someone for healing or to set captives free.

We believe that every member here is a minister. So we want every member at Jesus Center to have the word richly dwelling in them. We're self-feeders here at this church, not just looking to be spoon fed.

So if you want to be fed, read your Bible every day, spend time with the Lord every day. We're self-feeders here at Jesus Center, and we believe that every member is supposed to be salt and light to their families and to their workplaces. We're supposed to be a blessing wherever we are. And that's for all of us.

Number three, we envision and value a relational church. The early church, they were in fellowship.

That word fellowship is the word *koinonia*, and it means to share life together. Here at this church, we want to be a relational church, not just say hi to each other on Sunday. But what would it look like to share life together, to really care for each other?

This is something that we dream of, that we would be a church where we love one another and where it is like family. Where we don't just see the back of each other's heads on Sunday, but that we sit at a table together, we share a meal together, we connect deeper than just small talk or a quick high five in the middle of the service.

So that's what we're going for. We want to continue to see house churches, small groups coming forth from this place so that we can be in fellowship with one another.

And the cool thing about when the church fellowships together is that the Lord is in our midst, he's in our fellowship. That's 1 John 1:3.

³ that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. (1 John 1:3, ESV)

You know, there are 61 and others in the New Testament. And let me give you an example.

Pray for one another, serve one another, encourage one another, be devoted to one another, comfort one another, bear one another's burdens, bear with one another, forgive one another, spur each other on to love and good deeds. And so that all happens in relationship.

In the context of relationship, number four, we value and envision a Spirit-led church. We want to be a church that is led by the Holy Spirit. Our inspiration comes from Acts 13.

When the church in Antioch, they would minister to the Lord, and when they were fasting, the Holy Spirit would give them promptings and direction, and they would follow the prompting of the Spirit. They would follow the lead of the Spirit.

And that's what we want to be too as a church. We want to be a church sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading because he's going to lead this church.

And yes, we do make plans, and we strive for excellence in how we operate. But we want to be flexible to the Holy Spirit, and we want the Holy Spirit to lead us.

In the book of Acts, did you know the Holy Spirit tells Paul to not preach in certain regions, but he leads Paul to other regions? And so, we want to be led

by the Holy Spirit, and we believe that the Holy Spirit should be the one leading the church.

All right, number five, we value and envision a Jesus-centered church. So here, Jesus will be the hero of every sermon. We want to be a church that's focused on him.

In Hebrews 12:1-2, it says we ought to fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2, ESV)

The gospel of Jesus, the person of Jesus, the work of Jesus, the beauty of Jesus is not going to be a side this year. We're going to be a church that is focused on Jesus.

It's not going to be a man-centered church. It's not going to be a church where we make it all about us. No, it's all about him.

We want to continue to be a Jesus-focused and Jesus-centered church. Even our worship songs will help us focus on who Jesus is. The sermons will lead us to fixing our eyes on Jesus Christ because he is the answer.

And I believe that when people can see Jesus and when we can encounter him, and that's what it's about. As we minister to Jesus, the people receive what they need.

Number six, we value and envision a Word and Spirit church. We here at Jesus Center believe in the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit. But we also believe that we need to be rooted and grounded in the Scriptures.

We need to be a biblical church. Yes, we want to be a Spirit-filled, Spirit-led church, but we are a church that is committed to the Word of God.

We believe that the Holy Spirit can move in unusual ways, mysterious ways, supernatural ways, but the Holy Spirit will not contradict Scripture. And so here we must even judge prophetic words using the Scriptures.

Everything we do, I pray, is supported by Scripture. And I'm asking you, man, if you're part of Jesus Center, you need to be a person of the Spirit, full of the Spirit, sensitive to the Spirit. But also, you need to be a person committed to the careful and prayerful study of the Scriptures.

And if you ever see us doing something that is against what is taught in the Scriptures, please call that out and highlight that because we want to be in line with the Word of God.

Number seven is we value and envision a beyond the walls church. We're not a church that just waits for people to come, because Jesus said in Matthew 28:19 to go into all the world.

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19, ESV)

So we're a church that goes. We take Jesus beyond these walls. We'll go to where people are. We'll go to the nations, we'll send people out. And so our dream is to see churches being birthed and launched, church planters being launched, new churches being birthed, new locations.

And so we want to extend beyond this place. This is just a starting point. Because the church, when we studied a church in the Book of Acts, it was a movement. It wasn't stagnant; it was a movement. And so for us, we believe that we're supposed to move beyond the walls, and we're supposed to continue to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations.

That doesn't mean that we don't value the people that are in front of us. But we also are dreaming of reaching the people all over the world who do not yet know the Lord.

Last but not least, number eight. We value and envision an urban monastery because we are a people who love the presence of God, and we love to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord. That's Psalm 27:4.

⁴ One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple. (Psalm 27:4, ESV)

We are a church that chooses to spend generous time at the feet of Jesus because Jesus said that's the better part in Luke 10:38-42. We want to be like Mary, not just like Martha.

⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, ⁴² but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.” (Luke 10:41-42, ESV)

We want to be like Mary and really prioritize the presence of God and spending quality time with God because when we spend quality time with God, that's when we have more encounters with God.

And the more encounters we have with God, the more we come alive and the more our hunger is intact. Every time I encounter God, my hunger for him grows.

But if I'm not having encounters with him because I'm so busy just doing stuff and doing life, then my hunger begins to die. And that's very unhealthy, spiritually speaking.

You know, we want to corporately host his presence together. We want to be his resting place. David was a man after God's own heart. He built a tabernacle of David where there was continual worship and prayer.

That's our heart, too. We want to create a resting place for the Lord.

Part 4: The Responsibilities of a Church Member

All right, so now we're going to talk about the responsibility of someone who would consider themselves a member of the church family here at Jesus Center. What do we expect from people who call this church their home?

Well, number one, we want to prioritize gathering together. In Hebrews 10:25, we saw that don't forsake the assembling together. And so gathering together is important. It shouldn't be what we do because we have nothing else to do. It should be on the calendar, and it should be a priority.

Not saying that you have to be here 52 Sundays a year, but I am saying that this should be a priority to gather together. And when we gather together, let's come on time, let's come prayed up, let's come early. We always have pre-service prayer.

Let's come with joy. Let's come with expectation, because God is a good God. And let's come ready to extend God's love to someone and encourage someone. That's how we come to church if you are a member of this church family.

And so be part of the larger gatherings, be part of the smaller gatherings. And yeah, just continue to gather because we're family.

Number two, if you're part of this church family, we're supposed to serve. God's given you amazing gifts, and we're not supposed to just hoard those gifts or hide them. We're supposed to serve them. And this is a place where you can serve the gifts that God's given you and continue to develop them.

I see the church as not a cruise ship, but we're a battleship. So we need all hands on deck. And so, let's all do our part. And if you do your part, then I can do my part. The better you do your part, the better I can do my part. And so let's all do our part.

And let's continue to advance the kingdom of God and see the kingdom of darkness lose its hold over our region. And so be part of a team. Serve. Serve with a heart of love. And when you serve, serve as unto the Lord. That's what the Scriptures teach us, that you're not just serving the people.

You see, we're serving Jesus. And that's why we serve the people we can see, because it's really unto the Lord. Jesus takes what we do to his church very personally. And so, that's our heart. We serve out of a love for Jesus. Out of a love for Jesus. Not because everybody was nice to you. We serve because we love Jesus. And he's asking us to love those he loves.

All right, so number three, we want to support the church financially. In Malachi 3:10, it says, bring the whole tithe into the storehouse so that there would be food in God's house. So 10% of our income, we believe, is something that we give to that and we bring to the house of God. It's a blessing.

¹⁰ *Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. (Malachi 3:10, ESV)*

You know, we recognize it's God who's given us the power to make wealth. We honor him with our finances. And you can read more about that in Malachi 3. And also, there's offerings as well. So as the Lord leads you, we give. And here's the good news is that we can never outgive God. We can never outgive God. Amen to that.

The more generous we are, the more God will fill our cups, fill our lives, and fill our accounts. And I believe that Jesus says, give, and it shall be given to you. Pressed down, shaken together, running over, will men give into your bosom?

³⁸ *give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you." (Luke 6:38, ESV)*

So as we give to the house of God, as we give, as the Lord leads you, and maybe even to other missionaries or ministries or even somebody in need, when you give, the Lord will bless you for that.

Number four, if you're part of this church, let's protect the unity of this church. And so how do we do that?

If you have an issue with someone, instead of gossiping about them, you go to them. That's Matthew 18. You go to them and let them know how they have offended you, and you give them the opportunity to apologize.

And maybe they will, maybe they won't, but you bring it to them. And I find that a lot of times, these conflicts in church, they're just misunderstandings.

And if you would actually talk to them, you'll find that they didn't mean to hurt you.

But you start bringing cancer into the church when you start gossiping about so and so rather than just going to them. Jesus was very clear that when you have something against someone, you go to them directly. That's Matthew 18:15.

¹⁵ *“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. (Matthew 18:15, ESV)*

And here at Jesus Center, if you're part of this church family, we should be actively engaged in reconciliation as much as possible.

In fact, Jesus says if you know somebody has something against you, even before you give your offering or you give your sacrifice, or even before you enter into praise time, go make things right with them first. Go make things right. And that's how important reconciliation is. That's how important unity is.

And I want to encourage you to continue to receive inner healing. We have inner healing appointments that you can make through the church. Email us about that and we'll get you started on that. We believe that we should all be continuing to mature. And as we pursue spiritual maturity, that will also translate into greater unity.

In Titus 3, it says that we ought to confront behavior that's divisive. So if you see divisive behavior happening, I think we need to speak up.

As Christians, we have to call out Christians. We have to call each other to live the Christian life. If somebody's not a Christian, I don't have to call them to live the Christian life and live according to the Word of God.

But if someone says they're a Christian, if I'm a Christian, I'm supposed to call them to that standard, because that's what we all signed up for, right?

Okay, so here we go. Now, here's another very important way to protect the unity: let's guard our hearts. Let's be quick to forgive. Let's not harbor bitterness.

And also, I do want to say that there may be times where the church starts focusing on an area that may not be your favorite thing, but instead of getting whiny about it, I want to encourage you to celebrate it.

You know, of course, don't celebrate us if we're going in the wrong direction, going into heresy or sin. But here, let me give you an example.

Like, I remember when we were focusing on being a house of prayer and ministering to the Lord and engaging in a thousand hours of prayer and worship. There were people who are more outreach oriented that started kind of getting upset and started whining and complaining, saying, why aren't we doing more for the community?

And then I remember when we were focusing on that year of outreach, and we saw thousands of young people give their lives to the Lord. There were people complaining and whining again, saying, oh, why are they just talking about evangelism all the time? You know, why aren't we praying more?

But the truth is, we need all of it, right? You know, we need strong arms and strong legs and a strong core, if you will.

So if we're in a season of maybe doing leg exercises or focusing on outreach, that doesn't mean we're not going to get to the arms. That doesn't mean we're going to ignore the shoulders or ignore, you know, the back muscles, because, again, we need all of it.

And so as we go through different seasons and focuses, it may not be your cup of tea, because all of us have strengths and all of us have giftings, and all of us, we're motivated differently, you know, according to how God made us, right?

Like, you know, maybe you're very pastoral and you love small groups. And so when we go through a time of talking about small groups, you come alive and you get fired up.

But hey, you need to hang out with a person who's more outreach oriented because that's how we get the whole enchilada, if you will. And we grow into the full stature of Christ, not just by staying with other people that are exactly like us.

We need all the flavors, if you will. We need a convergence again. We need the body being the body and all the different parts of the body being celebrated. We don't need the hand criticizing the foot, okay?

So I just want to let you know that that's another way we protect unity. So let's be mature and let's not whine and complain. Study what happened to the Israelites when they did that. All right?

So the church, if you're a member of this church, we're asking you to hold the church accountable. You know, study the Scriptures.

If you see that there's something that we're not teaching right, bring that to our attention. If you see a leader that's not living out Christlike character, you can bring that to his or her attention. And if they're not listening, you can bring witnesses, and we can move forward.

There are things in the bylaws where the leaders, we're not like kings, you know, you can see leaders be removed here at the church.

So if you do have a concern, you are actually, if it's a real concern, it's your responsibility to bring it up. Because we're supposed to all fight for the purity of the church and for the health of the church. And just covering up and being silent is not the way we go about doing that.

And so I'm saying we want to hold you accountable, but you need to hold us accountable, too. Email the church if you want a copy of the bylaws. Email the church if you want to know who the current board members are, because there are board members who are over the pastoral team. They can remove anybody on the pastoral team.

We also have an organizational flowchart. See who you're supposed to reach out to. If you have a concern about, like the sound department, on that organizational flowchart, you will see who is over that, and you can reach out to them.

Part 5: Where is Jesus Center Theologically?

All right, last but not least, we're going to talk about what we believe here at Jesus Center. What is our theology, if you will? And where does our theology come from?

Our theology comes from the Scriptures. All Scripture is God-breathed. It's the infallible Word of God.

Number two, our theology comes from Jesus Christ. Jesus says, if you've seen me, you've seen the Father, John 14:9.

And also we pay attention to church history. For example, we dunk people when we baptize for the most part, unless there's some reason why we can't.

But we typically dunk people in water because when we study church history, that's how the first-century church baptized people. And so, our theology is not something that we're coming up with using our reasoning. It's not something that we come up with based on our experiences.

And we're not here trying to jump on all the new fads out there. We want the ancient faith that the apostles laid down their lives for. So here at Jesus Center, we declare the Apostles Creed. It's the oldest creed that we know of in church history.

And it really compiles what the apostles taught. So when a believer would be baptized in the first century, in the second century, they would quote the Apostles Creed.

So that's something that we quote here together and we declare it together, the Apostles Creed. We also pay attention and subscribe to the Nicene Creed, and it's one of the most influential creeds in the history of the church because it answers very important questions of how we worship one God who is in three persons.

And so, yes, we do subscribe to the Nicene Creed, which was made official in 325 AD. We're not just coming up with a new thing here. We're trying to do the old thing. We're trying to go back to what the apostles taught and what they believed and what they laid down their lives for.

Just a few important things to know about Jesus Center is that we are a continuationist church. We believe in the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit still operating today.

Again, we believe that they need to be done biblically, and we need to operate in the gifts because of love. It has to be the love of Christ motivating these supernatural gifts.

But we believe in the gifts of the Spirit. You know, we believe that the Holy Spirit can speak to people today, but will not contradict the Scriptures.

Now here, I just want to say one more thing too. So even if somebody is having dreams and visions, but it's contradicting the Scriptures, we throw out those dreams and visions because it needs to be sorted through the filter of the Word of God, the Scriptures.

All right, so here at Jesus Center, we hold a high view of the sacraments. We believe that when we receive communion, the bread and the wine, or we do grape juice, it is more than just bread and grape juice that symbolize something. We actually believe that the presence of the Lord is in those elements.

And so we receive his divine presence as we engage in communion. We engage in communion every week because we see that in Scripture, and we see that with the early church. They, every time they gathered or very often, would receive communion and were instructed to receive communion.

And yet, you know, the way I grew up is we just saw it like, basically it did not feel very sacred. You know, it was like snack time, but that's not the way Paul talked about holy communion.

And so here at Jesus Center, we really value the sacraments, receiving holy communion, even baptism. We believe that something very supernatural and mysterious happens when a person is baptized. They don't just go into the waters and come out. We believe something powerful takes place as we take those steps of obedience and do what the Lord asked us to do.

All right. And last but not least, we believe that the kingdom of God is the major and central theme in the Scriptures. And the kingdom of God is here because Jesus came and he brought the kingdom of heaven here on earth.

So the kingdom of God, the kingdom of heaven, is here, but still coming, not yet in fullness. And so we live in that in-between phase, if you will, of the kingdom here.

So God's moving in our midst in powerful ways, but he's still coming and he's going to establish his kingdom. And the kingdoms of this world will all become the kingdoms of Jesus Christ.

All right, so here I'll just read the statement of faith and then we'll wrap it up here.

So we believe that God is the one true living God, existing eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is Spirit, he's infinite. He's eternal. He's unchangeable in his love, mercy, power, and righteousness.

Number two, we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, that He's the Son of God, that he became incarnate through his virgin birth. And he is both perfect in his deity and his humanity.

And he willingly gave his life as a perfect and all-sufficient substitutionary sacrifice for the sins of man, that through his atonement, man can know freedom from the penalty, guilt, and effects of sin. Amen.

And he rose from the dead in his physical, glorified body, with which he is now seated in heaven making intercession for us believers. And he's coming again, and he's coming in his glorified body to establish his kingdom.

Number three. We believe in the Holy Spirit, that he's equal in every attribute of deity with God the Father and God the Son.

And he performs the miracle of the new birth in those who receive Jesus Christ as their Savior.

The Holy Spirit is now resident in believers. He seals them until the day of redemption, and he empowers them for service. He grants gifts of grace for the building up of the body of Christ.

Number four. We believe in truth, that it's objective and absolute and redemptive. Truth is set forth in the Scriptures and the Old and New Testament, which is God's revelation to man that is verbally inspired and inerrant in its original manuscripts.

We believe that the Bible is the supreme and final authority in all matters of faith and practice.

Number five. We believe that the Church is the united body of Christ on earth, which exists for fellowship, exists for edification, and for the communication of the Gospel to the nations by means of the Christian life and witness.

Number six. We believe that man was created in the image of God, but through Adam's sin, we became alienated from God and are condemned to eternal punishment. And the only remedy for man's condition is salvation by personal faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Number seven. We believe that there are finite, supernatural, personal beings that exist. These are fallen angels. There are unfallen angels as well, but there are also fallen angels or demons. And demons. And there is a Satan, who is the leader of fallen angels. He is declared to be the enemy of God and man. He's out to steal, kill, and destroy, but he is doomed to the lake of fire.

Last but not least, number eight.

There'll be a bodily resurrection of both the saved and the lost. And they that are saved to eternal life, and they that are lost to eternal damnation.

So that concludes our time together. And thank you for taking time to watch this video, making it all the way through. And can I just pray for you before we wrap up here?

Lord, I thank you for my brother, for my sister who is watching this video.

I pray, Lord, that you would fill them with your love, that you fill them with your Spirit, that, Lord, you would give them wisdom and revelation in your word.

We pray, Lord, that you would just expand their hearts, that their love for you would grow, that their love for your church would grow. I pray, Lord, that you would begin to speak to them, that they would see why you brought them here and help them to recognize what you're calling them to do for such a time as this.

So, Lord, I just bless my brother. I bless my sister. Would you continue to lead them and guide them? Lord, bless their families. Bless them. Bless their families.

We pray, Lord, bless their health. And, Lord, we thank you for bringing us together to serve you and to make you famous here on this earth, and to see your kingdom come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.