

September 13, 2026

(Series Info)

One Church, One Mission: Gathered for a Reason

Church can easily become something we attend, something we fit into the schedule, or something we evaluate by what we get out of it. But Jesus formed His Church to be a people united by the Gospel, growing together and carrying His mission into the world around them. The Church is God's Plan A to bring hope to the world. There is no Plan B.

In One Church / One Mission, we'll rediscover why we gather, why the one who is far from God still matters, how we grow into mature disciples, and what it means to live sent. At Mount Pleasant, that means we **Reach** not yet believers with the love of God. We **Raise** disciples who are becoming more like Jesus every day. We **Release** people to live boldly for Him right where they are.

This series is an invitation to see our place in that mission more clearly and take the next step God is calling us to take, right where we are.

(Personal Fun Facts)

1. Think about who you were ten years ago. In what ways are you a different person today?
2. Finish this sentence: "Something I used to do, believe, wear, eat, or think that makes me laugh now is ..."

(Takeaways)

What was a major takeaway moment during the sermon this week?

(Big Idea)

Coming to Jesus isn't the finish line; it's just the beginning.

(Discussion)

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:18; Salvation is the Beginning, Not the End

Coming to Jesus begins a process of becoming like Jesus. Paul describes the Christian life as one of continual transformation—we are increasingly being “transformed into His image.” Christianity is more than a decision to be made (while that is very important); but it is also about what the Holy Spirit is continually doing in us right now. The question is not only, “Have I come to Jesus?” but “Am I becoming more like Jesus every day?” The evidence of spiritual growth isn’t based on how much Scripture I can recite or how long I have attended church. It is measured by the character of Jesus that is increasingly becoming visible in me.

- 1) When you first became a Christian, what did you think being a Christian was primarily about?
- 2) If someone followed you around for a week, where might they see evidence that Jesus is shaping your life in an ongoing way? (Don’t worry—you can answer this question humbly).

Scripture: Ephesians 4:11–16; Paul’s Picture of the Church

Paul’s vision of the church is of a living body growing toward maturity in Christ. The leaders of the Church are to equip His people for ministry ... or for “works of service.” The leaders are equippers. The people are ministers. Together, the Church becomes mature.

- 3) How is Paul’s picture of the church different from the way people commonly think about church today?

- 4) What do you think a church full of spiritually mature people would actually look like?

Scripture: John 15:4–5; What Does Maturity Look Like?

Spiritual infancy is normal at the beginning of our relationship with Christ. Spiritual infancy, though, becomes a problem when it becomes permanent. If you have just been born again, there is nothing wrong with being a spiritual baby. The tragedy is remaining one. Our spiritual maturity is not measured by how long we have been saved or how long we have been going to church. Paul measures maturity differently: stability in truth, participation in ministry, love toward others, connection to the body of Christ, and an increasing resemblance to Jesus. But how does greater resemblance with Jesus take place? We become like Jesus by being with Jesus. When we remain in Him, He will remain in us. We cannot become like someone we rarely spend time with. Practicing key spiritual disciplines like prayer, silence, solitude, and biblical meditation are practices that help place us in the transforming presence of God.

- 5) What is the greatest influence in your life that is forming you right now?
- 6) If becoming like Jesus is the goal, what characteristic of Jesus do you most want the Holy Spirit to develop in you right now?
- 7) How has the body of Christ contributed to your spiritual growth?

Closing Group Exercise & Personal Application

You will complete the Group Exercise in your Life Group setting. Please refer next to the Personal Application.

Action Steps this Next Week

- Ask, "Am I increasingly becoming the kind of person Jesus is?" Or, "If I continue living exactly as I am living right now, am I becoming more like Jesus?"
- What spiritual practice might I need to incorporate in my life that will place me in the presence of God in order that I might become more like Jesus?
- Tell someone you know how you believe Jesus is calling you to greater resemblance to Him. In what ways do you believe He is calling you to be more like Him?
- What are you going to do in the next couple of days that will facilitate you becoming more like Jesus? What step will you take?
- Repeat this phrase and make it your prayer: Discipleship is the lifelong process by which the Holy Spirit forms the character and likeness of Jesus in me.

Closing Prayer

Jesus, we are grateful that You meet us where we are, but You never intend for us to remain there. You have invited us into a lifelong journey of becoming more like You. Forgive us for the times we have confused knowing about You with actually following You. Forgive us when we have measured spiritual maturity by how long we have been Christians, how much we know, or how often we attend church rather than by how deeply Your character is being formed in us.

Holy Spirit, help us not to simply admire Jesus, but to imitate Him; not simply to hear His words, but to practice His way; not just to believe in Him, but to become increasingly like Him.

Keep forming Christ in us. In the name of Jesus, we pray.
Amen.