

# SERMON NOTES

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Kick-Off 2019

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How are we doing with the call that God has place on our church?

### *1 Corinthians 10:31*

*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

### *Ephesians 4:11-16*

*And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.*

There were three things that characterized an apostle.

- He had to be commissioned by Christ (Matthew 10:5)
- He possessed supernatural gifts (Matthew 10:8)
- He had to have seen the Lord (Acts 1:22)

### *Ephesians 2:20-22*

*built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.*

Goal #1: Increase the investment and intentionality in the health, growth, and development of our staff and key leaders.

WHY? Staff and key leaders must be appropriately equipped to more effectively serve our church family.

*Psalm 78:72*

*With upright heart he shepherded them  
and guided them with his skillful hand.*

Goal #2: Increase the development and intentionality to empower all campuses for local ministry.

WHY? Each campus must develop local leadership, local resources, and local ministry.

Goal #3: Significantly improve our process for connection and assimilation.

WHY? People need to belong, grow, and serve to experience purpose and meaning.

The Pew Research Center conducts polls concerning religious issues. In their latest survey they found that "Religious Nones" are among the fastest growing group.

#### Religious Nones

- Atheists
- Agnostics
- Nothing

Their specific explanations include the following statements:

- "Learning about evolution when I went away to college."
- "Religion is the opiate of the people."
- "Rational thought makes religion go out the window."
- "Lack of any sort of scientific or specific evidence of a creator."
- "I just realized somewhere along the line that I didn't really believe it."
- "I'm doing a lot more learning, studying and kind of making decisions myself rather than listening to someone else."

Here's what Wallace concludes:

*"Ex-Christians often leave the church because they don't think anyone in the church can answer their questions or make a case. It's time for believers to accept their responsibility to explain what Christianity proposes and why these propositions are true, especially when interacting with young people who have legitimate questions.*

*"Rather than embracing a blind or unreasonable faith, Christians must develop an informed, forensic faith that can stand up in the marketplace of ideas. We know why young Christians are leaving. Now it's time to give them a reason to stay."*

<https://hillfaith.blog/2018/12/27/big-challenges-for-christians-in-latest-nones-survey-results/#more-475>

Developing followers of Jesus is not just for us...it is for generations to come. What we do today will determine what we leave tomorrow.