

# GROUNDING

Sunday, February 27, 2022 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

## Part 7 | Grounded as Christ's Church

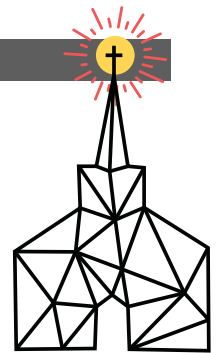
Acts 2:36-47

A Few Things the Church is **NOT**...

1. The Church is not **A BUILDING**.
2. The Church is not **A SINGLE DENOMINATION**.
3. The Church is not **A BUSINESS**.
4. The Church is not **A COUNTRY CLUB**.
5. The Church is not **FROM A SINGLE POLITICAL PARTY**.
6. The Church is not **HERE FOR YOUR AGENDA**.
7. The Church is not **YOUR TICKET TO HEAVEN**.

### EFCA Statement of Faith | Article 7. The Church

We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.



The "True Church" = **ALL BELIEVERS** in Jesus Christ

those **justified** by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone

Ephesians 4:4; John 3:16; Acts 16:31; Rom. 3:20-28

**Jesus is Senior Pastor**

Ephesians 1:22; 4:15; Colossians 1:18; 2:19; 1 Peter 5:4

**united by the Holy Spirit**

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

The True Church is manifest in **LOCAL CHURCHES**

Acts 9:31; 20:28-30; Romans 16:5; 1 Cor. 1:2; 16:19

**God's gathered people in a specific locale — "ekklesia"**

2 Corinthians 1:1; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; Philemon 1-2

**many metaphors**

1 Tim. 5:1-2; Eph 5:32; John 15:5; Rom. 11:17-24; 1 Cor. 3:6-9; Matt. 13:1-30; John 4:35; 1 Pet. 2:4-8; Heb. 3:3-6; 1 Cor. 12:12-27

**membership of believers**

Matt. 18:15-20; Acts 2:41, 47; 14:23; 1 Cor. 14:40

**gathers regularly for worship, fellowship, ordinances**

Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20; 14:40; Hebrews 10:25

"ekklesia" = the Greek word we translate as "church" in English. — An ekklesia was simply a gathering of people for a specific purpose.

An Example: **Acts 2:36-47**

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.



We exist to glorify God by multiplying transformational churches among all people.

**What is this?** – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, and live life together. We call them Life Groups. The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a parallel passage of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card at the Connect Desk.

**Use this guide for further personal and group study this week.** For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn't gathering this week, use this as a guide for further study and growth personally.

## Getting Started

Part of our goal together is getting to know more about one another.  
*What is your church background? Have you been part of other local churches in the past? Have you never been connected to a church before?*

## Review...

1. **Read Article 7 of our Statement of Faith aloud as a group.**
2. **Read Acts 2:36-47.**
3. What stands out from this passage? What did you learn about it this past weekend?

**Review your message notes.** What stood out to you from the message this week? Do you have questions? Disagreements? Discuss it as a group.

## Digging Deeper

**Read Hebrews 10:24-25.** What does the writer of the letter to the Hebrews warn the people against neglecting?

1. According to these verses, what benefits do we give and receive when we meet together?
2. Why should Christ's return ("the Day drawing near") compel us to gather as a church? What are some ways we encourage one another in the church in light of Christ's return?

### Read 1 Peter 5:1-5.

- a. According to these verses, who is the ultimate authority in the church? (Hint: it's not the elders.)
- b. What three groups does Peter instruct? What does he tell each group to do?
- c. Who do elders submit to? Who do the "younger" submit to? Who should everyone submit to (*see also Ephesians 5:21*)?
- d. Sometimes people like to say, 'I don't need to join a church. I'm a Christian and belong to Jesus' universal Church, I don't need to attend or be a member of a local church to be a Christian.'
- e. In what ways is this statement true? In what ways is it false? What would you say to someone making this claim?

### Read 1 Thessalonians 3:1-3 and 9-10.

1. How would you describe Paul's feelings toward the Thessalonian church?
2. When Paul became concerned about the Thessalonians' spiritual struggles, what did he do (vv. 1-3)? What did he constantly pray for (v. 10)?
3. Why do you think Paul wasn't content to simply write to the Thessalonians from afar? What is the connection between loving someone and wanting to be physically present with them? What is the connection between helping someone and taking steps to be physically present with them?
4. How do these verses encourage you to gather with our church and your Life Group?

## Closing

*Who have you noticed is missing from gathering with us? Who might you reach out to, invite, and either encourage to return or encourage to come for the first time to gather with us?*

I T T F H O M E S G G C B L B  
H F A E V E R Y T H I N G A P  
F I L L E D C S B E V S N B O  
B P O L G N B E L I E V E R S  
R R C O N T I N U E D U V E S  
E O H W E L M A N Y O N E A E  
A P O S T L E S R C A G R K S  
D E B H E A R T S O I L Y I S  
P R A I S I N G H M T A O N I  
R T S P E R F O R M E D N G O  
A Y M S E K D F K O A N E T N  
Y B C O U R T S I N C E R E S  
E R Y L M T O G E T H E R M I  
R O S D E M P O H K I D N P G  
C K E V E R Y E D V N M V L N  
D E V O T E D R T U G L D E S

## Word Find in the Word

*Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.*

### Word Find for Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

*Find the words **bolded** below.*

<sup>42</sup>They **devoted** themselves to the **apostles' teaching** and to **fellowship**, to the **breaking of bread** and to **prayer**. <sup>43</sup>**Everyone** was **filled** with awe at the **many** wonders and **signs performed** by the **apostles**. <sup>44</sup>All the **believers** were **together** and had **everything** in **common**. <sup>45</sup>They **sold property** and **possessions** to **give** to **anyone** who had **need**. <sup>46</sup>**Every** day they **continued** to **meet together** in the **temple courts**. They **broke bread** in their **homes** and ate **together** with **glad** and **sincere hearts**, <sup>47</sup>**praising** God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.