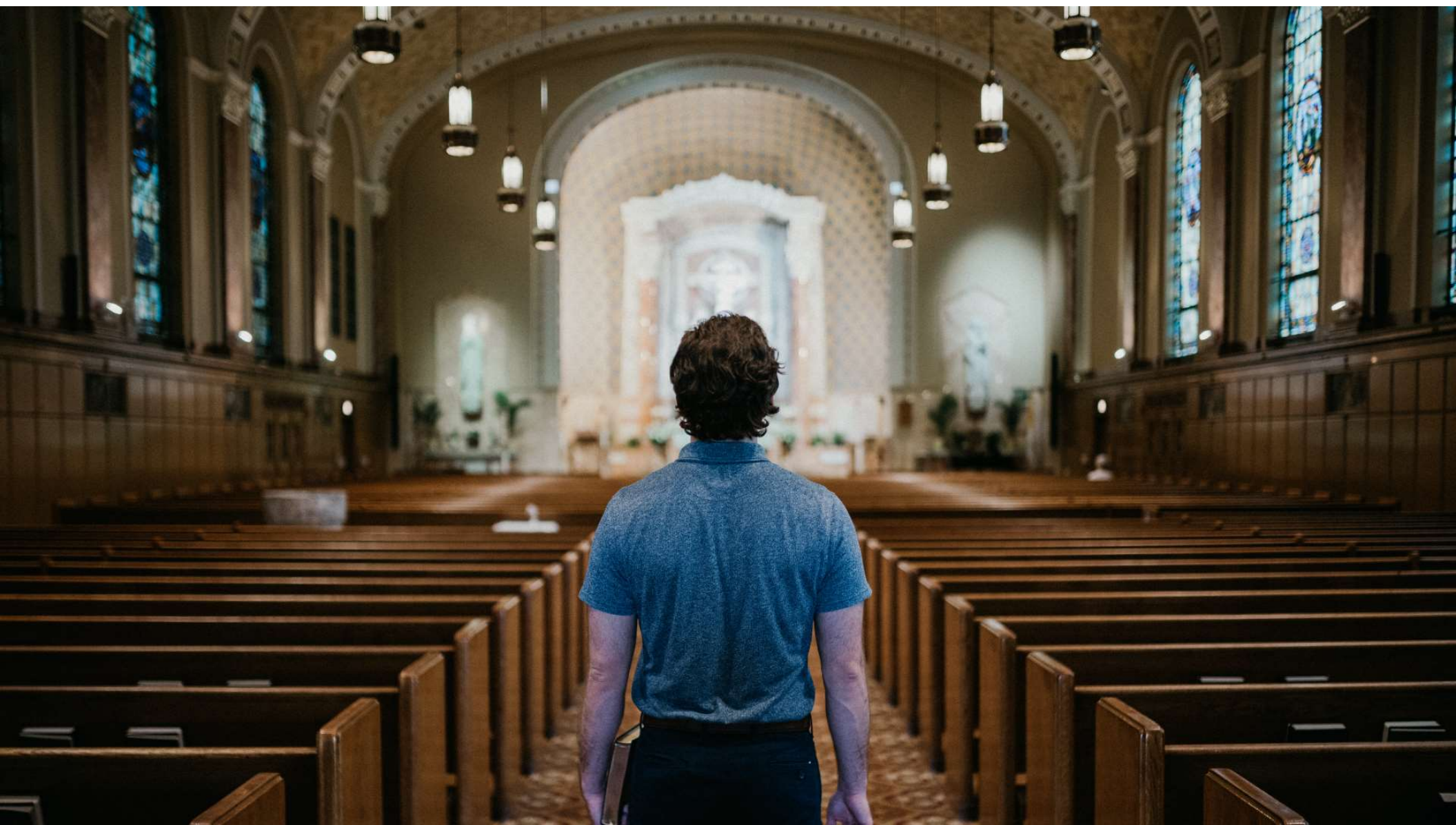


CHRISTIAN FUNDAMENTALS

# The Church









A photograph of a person with dark hair, seen from behind, standing in the center aisle of a church. They are wearing a blue short-sleeved shirt and dark trousers. The church has high ceilings with arched windows and hanging lanterns. The pews are wooden and arranged in rows on either side of the aisle. The altar area is visible in the distance, framed by an archway.

# CHURCH = THE ASSEMBLY

The pre-Christian history of the word had a direct bearing upon its Christian meaning, for the *ekklēsia* of the NT is a “theocratic democracy” (Lindsay, *Church and Ministry in the Early Cents.*, 4), a society of those who are free, but are always conscious that their freedom springs from obedience to their King.



“I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build **My church**; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

- **Matthew 16:18**





**The Church** is the unique  
separation and distinction  
of the people of God.





# Two Senses of the Church

**LOCAL**

**1<sup>ST</sup> CORINTHIANS 1:2**

**UNIVERSAL**

**ACTS 9:31**





# Who is part of the church?

**ACTS 2:47**

- Can people be in our church but not God's church? (1<sup>st</sup> John 2:19)
- Can people be in God's church but not our church? (Mark 9:38-40)
- Is a church's standing with God easily visible? (Revelation 3:1)



# CHRIST'S CHURCH – MORAL PURITY

## REVELATION 2:19-23



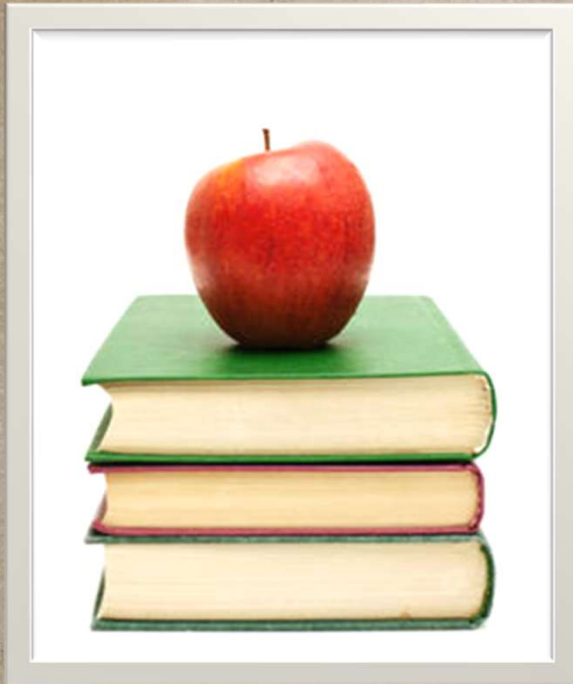
- Is it easy to select a church based on this?
- The issue wasn't the sermon, but the lives of its members!
- Everyone has a personal responsibility to address moral failings within the church.





# CHRIST'S CHURCH – CORRECT TEACHING

REVELATION 2:14-16



- Jesus notices what is being taught at a church!
- The Church's teaching doesn't change over time.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:1-5
- People don't always want to hear truth





# CHRIST'S CHURCH – PASSION FOR GOD

REVELATION 3:12-19

- Jesus can see our attitude toward Him
- What was His attitude toward God's house? (John 2)
- Describe a church that is "lukewarm"
- Remember, a church is made up of individuals!





# CHRIST'S CHURCH – CARE FOR ITS MEMBERS



## ROMANS 12:10; JAMES 2

- A church should be a family
- Care needs to be given for the weak, poor, elderly etc.
- This includes spiritual as well as physical well being
- We are all members of each other





# CHRIST'S CHURCH – A LOVE FOR THE LOST

## ACTS 8:4

- A church needs be focused on saving *the world*
- It is an individual responsibility
- What does the future hold for a church that doesn't have evangelism on their mind?
- Spreading the gospel around the world is also important!

