



## **Touchy Subjects: Do We Really Need the Church?**

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*<sup>9</sup> I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. <sup>12</sup> While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup> But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. <sup>14</sup> I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>15</sup> I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them<sup>2</sup> in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> And for their sake I consecrate myself,<sup>3</sup> that they also may be sanctified<sup>4</sup> in truth.*

*<sup>20</sup> "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one.*

**John 17:9-22**

Do We Really Need the Church?

1. The church is a mark of distinction of God's children from the world.

*And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

**Matthew 16:18b**

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

**Romans 12:2**

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 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 10:24-25**

2. The church exists for the sake of the world.
3. The church exists for Christ's glory and our joy.

### **Bottom Line**

***The Church is not Just a Good Idea, It's God's Idea***

Do We Really Need the Church?

## **Touchy Subjects: Do We Really Need the Church?**

1. What are some of the best experiences you've had being part of a church?
2. What are some of the most challenging experiences you've had being part of a church?
3. If you were to give a summary of what the church is to a non-Christian, how would you describe it?
4. Read John 17:9-22, how can this passage prepare you to answer questions regarding the true nature of the church?
5. When you attend church, what is it you have been seeking in the past and has this passage affirmed or changed what you are seeking? Feel free to explain.
6. When you hear that the purpose of man, and by extension the church, is to glorify God and enjoy him forever, how do you think you can live this phrase out individually and in the gathered church?
7. Spend some time praying for the church's spiritual health and witness in the world and for those in your life you long to see be a part of it.