

# THE CHURCH

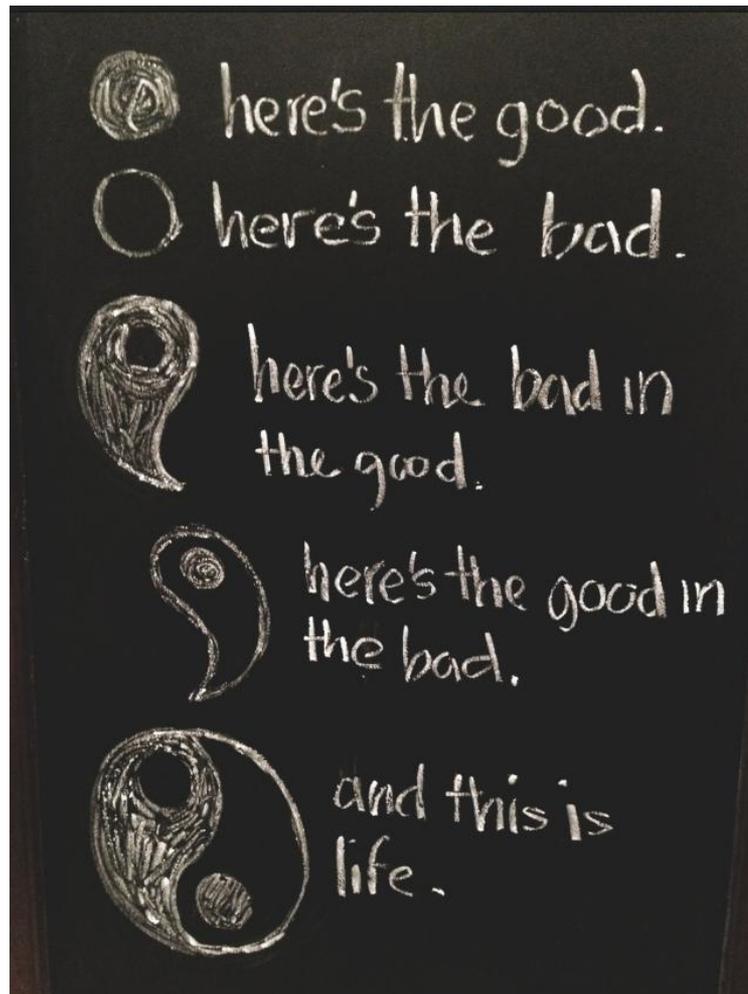
WHAT IS IT?  
DOES IT MATTER?  
SHOULD YOU CARE?



THE CHURCH WHAT IS IT?  
DOES IT MATTER?  
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# Why You Need the Church and The Church Needs You





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# Why You Need the Church and The Church Needs You



# Discipline



**But not this kind .. . phhew!**



*No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.*

*Heb. 12:11*



You need the Church,  
and the Church needs you,  
because the Spirit of God uses us  
in each other's lives, not to punish us,  
but to form and maintain in us  
the character and holiness of Jesus.



*“Companions in transforming community are increasingly able to see what is truest and most essential in us and call us to it over time . . . we need a community that can listen to our desire and support us in choosing practices and life rhythms that are congruent with what we say we want – intimacy with God, deeper levels of transformation in God’s presence, soul friendship and connection with others, and the freedom and courage to offer the gifts of an authentic self to the world.”*

(Ruth Haley Barton, *Life Together in Christ*)



# Matthew 7:1-12



# Matthew 7:1-12

“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.



# Matthew 7:1-12

“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”



# Matthew 7:1-12

“Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.



# Matthew 7:1-12

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”



# Matthew 7:1-12

“Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”



# Planks, Pearls and Prayers



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Planks (vs 1-5):

Eliminate Condemnation and Then Help



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Planks (vs 1-5):

Eliminate Condemnation and Then Help

A. Judge Not



*Don't be so naive and self-confident. You're not exempt. You could fall flat on your face as easily as anyone else. Forget about self-confidence; it's useless. Cultivate God-confidence.*

*1 Cor. 10:10-13 (Msg)*



# Planks, Pearls and Prayers

Planks (vs 1-5):

Eliminate Condemnation and Then Help

A. Judge Not

B. That You Not Be Judged



# Planks, Pearls and Prayers

Planks (vs 1-5):

Eliminate Condemnation and Then Help

A. Judge Not

B. That You Not Be Judged

C. Yank the Plank!



“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”



Condemnation is the plank in our eye.



*“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus”*

*Rom. 8:1*



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Planks (vs 1-5):

Eliminate Condemnation and Then Help

A. Judge Not

B. That You Not Be Judged

C. Yank the Plank!



# Planks, Pearls and Prayers

Planks (vs 1-5):

Addendum



# Planks, Pearls and Prayers

Planks (vs 1-5):            Addendum

Jesus is not suggesting that we should stop discerning how things are because we want to avoid condemning others.



# Planks, Pearls and Prayers

Planks (vs 1-5):            Addendum

Jesus is not suggesting that we should stop discerning how things are because we want to avoid condemning others.

We're human. None of us do this perfectly.



# Planks, Pearls and Prayers

Pearls (vs 6):

When "Help" Becomes Deadly



# Planks, Pearls and Prayers

Pearls (vs 6):

When "Help" Becomes Deadly

"Pushing"



# Planks, Pearls and Prayers

Pearls (vs 6):

When "Help" Becomes Deadly

The point isn't the waste of the "pearl",  
but that the person given the pearl  
isn't actually helped.



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# Planks, Pearls and Prayers

Prayers (vs 7-12):

The Formative Dynamic of the Ask



# Planks, Pearls and Prayers

Prayers (vs 7-12):

The Formative Dynamic of the Ask

A. Simply Ask



*“Ask me not where I live or what I like to eat,  
ask me what I think I am living for, in detail, and  
ask me what I think is keeping me from living  
fully for the thing I want to live for.”*

*(Thomas Merton, My Argument with the Gestapo)*



# Planks, Pearls and Prayers

Prayers (vs 7-12):

The Formative Dynamic of the Ask

A. Simply Ask

B. Jesus Mediates



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