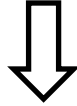


Who R We?

“The Church: it’s not just about activities...it’s about a way of life.”

“We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction...” (1 Thessalonians 1:2-5).

The gospel creates a community (v. 5)



of people loved by God (v. 4)



who live out their identity in everyday life (v. 3).

“But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet” (1 Thessalonians 5:8).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How would you describe the difference between understanding Christianity as an event on Sunday mornings versus seeing it as a way of life?
- What happens in my life if I just approach church as a weekly appointment on my calendar?
- In 1 Thessalonians, Paul argues that a healthy church community is characterized by several themes—faith, love, and hope. What are ways in which faith, love, and hope are evident in a local church?
- Foundationally, faith, hope, and love involve relationships—our relationships with God and others. Thus, for church to be more than an event, we have to make room for relationships. What does this look like in your life?