

VISION FORWARD

Why doesn't everybody in America go to church?

April 15, 2018

1. Why would people resist the church?

Two Commands of the church:

1. Love God
2. Love one another (even enemies)

The Identity of the church

- A. Community committed to seeking, sharing and serving our Savior.

2. Resistance to the church is not found in the new but bringing back the old.

Old Testament model of the church

- Sacred places
- Sacred text
- Sacred men
- Sincere followers

3. Jesus began something entirely new.

From sacred places – To sacred people

Matthew 16: 18 - *And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*

Facility – Faith

From sacred texts – Sacrificial servants

Matthew 5:17 - *Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.*

John 13: 34 - *A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.*

1 John 3: 16 - *This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.*

Matthew 23: 11 - *The greatest among you will be your servant.*

Laws – Love

From sacred men – Assessable God

Luke 22: 19, 20 - *And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."²⁰ In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.*

Slavery – Salvation

Sincere people – Loving community

John 13: 35 - *By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*

Acts 1: 8 - *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*

Conformity – Communication