

What Matters?
“Church Matters”
Reference: **Acts 9:18-30**
Pastor Daniel Flynn

God does have a message for us today, and it is that **church matters**.

- I. The first thing Paul did after his conversion was to be baptized. Then he spent some time with the disciples at Damascus.
- A. Church in the Bible was simply a group of disciples who were doing life together. From the beginning Jesus expected that when people were saved, they would be baptized and be disciples: followers and imitators of Him.
 - B. Disciples are people who are more than learners. They are apprentices following the Master. Disciples are people who emulate their leader.
 - C. You can be a believer and not be a disciple. But you cannot be a disciple and not follow Jesus. Everywhere you find a church in the Bible, you find groups of disciples, and everywhere you find disciples in the Bible you find churches. Why? Because when you have a group of disciples, you have a group of people who are naturally drawn together under the banner of Christ.
 - D. A basic definition of church is simply a group of disciples doing life together. Paul was saved and baptized and he was drawn to the disciples in Damascus. And since disciples are people who are serious about God’s purposes, Paul began living out that purpose by sharing His faith. In Jerusalem he was again drawn to the disciples. Notice in **verse 26** that these are the church members, because in **verse 27** after the disciples didn’t allow Paul to join with them, they brought him to the apostles.
- II. The Great Commission – **Matthew 28: 18-20** - Jesus commands His disciples to go and make more disciples and then to disciple them.
- A. When Paul was saved, he naturally wanted to be a disciple and to be discipled. Was it effective? He only turned out to be the greatest missionary since Christ Himself!
 - B. What is a church? It’s a group of disciples doing life together. Why does a church exist? To make more disciples. And what will those disciples do? They will disciple one another and go out to make new disciples!
 - C. People today are reading their Bibles, and what they’re

finding is a church that looks a lot different from what’s being passed off as church today.

- III. Can you be a Christian and not go to church? Sure you can.
- A. So does church really matter? It doesn’t if all you want to be is a Christian. But that idea is so foreign to the Bible and God’s will that I believe it’s a sin we ought to repent of. We’ve bought the lie of the devil – it’s time to wake up! Church does matter, but only if you’ve been born again, and then only if your heart’s desire is to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.
 - B. Have you been born again? Are you saved? Have you ever trusted Jesus Christ to save you?
 - C. Have you been baptized?
 - D. Have you really ever joined yourself to other disciples?
 - E. Would you consider joining yourself together as a disciple... a disciple in word, thought and deed?
- IV. Would you say to Christ and to one another that you’re not going to be content with attending a weekend event, but you want to be part of a living, thriving community of Christ followers?
- A. Church is going to matter to you because you’re going to be a disciple, you’re going to surrender to being discipled, and you’re going to begin purposely discipling others around you.
 - B. Churches today are viewed as powerless, irrelevant, unnecessary and optional. That’s a far cry from a little band of disciples in Damascus that was making a name for themselves hundreds of miles away in a day where news didn’t travel fast.
 - C. We can have that kind of church again today if we ever woke up to what God wanted us to be.

**Church matters. It matters to God.
It matters to all who are disciples.**