

ONE

ONE CHURCH. ONE MISSION. WON GENERATION.

Introduction:

- The Church in America is dying! Statistically, the numbers for church attendance is down from ten years ago in every age category of adults and in every evangelical denomination.
- 90% of kids who were active in Children/Youth Ministries drop out by their sophomore year of college, and fewer than one-third will ever return.

A growing number [young adults] are leaving the institutional church for a new reason. They are not leaving because they have lost their faith.

They are leaving the church to preserve their faith!

Reggie McNeal, **The Present Future**, p. 4

- And the biggest reasons for the exodus? Many feel the church lacks authenticity; like they have to have their life together or they are not welcome; or that the church provides pat answers to tough questions, to name a few.
- Admittedly, the Church has not always been everything it should be. But rather than perpetuating what the Church has been in the past, I recommend we go back to the Good Ole Days! Not the good ole days of 20 or 30 years ago, but the Good Ole Days of 2,000 years ago.

First Mention of Church (Matthew 16:13-18)

And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven" (v. 17).

"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church..." (v. 18a)

"... and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (v. 18b).

Definition of Church

Ek –

Klesia –

We Could Define the Church as:

The ever-enlarging body of _____ who claim Jesus is the _____, and over whom _____.

Why We Need the Church

Conclusion:

The Church is the only _____ for the world.