

### **How Do I Engage With The Local Church?**

Since the Church Is A . . .

Family, I Commit Relationally

Nation, I Pledge Myself Loyal

Army, I Endure Courageously

Body, I Serve Faithfully

OK, but what about when . . .

. . . the world pushes back

. . . the church goes bad

. . . people leave

### **When The World Pushes Back**

Don't Be Surprised

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God. . .  
.Dear Friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world. . ."

-1 Peter 2:9-11

"The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned."

-1 Corinthians 2:14

"As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you."

-John 15:19

### Don't Be Afraid

"Hear me, you who know what is right, you people who have my law in your hearts: Do not fear the reproach of men or be terrified by their insults."

-Isaiah 51:7

### See And Believe

"And Elisha prayed, 'O Lord, open his eyes so that he may see.' Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."

-2 Kings 6:17

### **When The Church Goes Wrong**

#### God's Perfect Church Is Made Of Imperfect People

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."

-2 Corinthians 4:7

"Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron."

-1 Timothy 4:2

"I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel."

-Galatians 1:6

### The Goal Is Reconciliation

"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother."

-Matthew 18:15

### Recognize You Might Be Wrong

"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us."

-1 John 1:8

## **When People Leave**

It Will Happen

“They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company.”

-Acts 15:39

It Will Hurt

“Make room for us in your hearts. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have exploited no one. I do not say this to condemn you; I have said before that you have such a place in our hearts that we would live or die with you.”

-2 Corinthians 7:2-3

Love, Bless, Trust and Hope

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. . . If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”

-Romans 12:10,18

“Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.”

-Acts 17:11