Pastor Mark Schmechel | Nov. 15, 2026
Series: Googled | Selected Verses

HOW DO I FIND A GOOD CHURCH?

1). What is the Church?

2 Corinthians 11:2b (NLT) *I promised you as a pure bride to one husband—Christ.*
Ephesians 5:25 (NIV) *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her [26] to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, [27] and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.*

Revelation 19:9 (NIV) *Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!" And he added, "These are the true words of God."*

2). How do I find a church that is a good fit for me?

Essential #1: Doctrine

Ephesians 2:8 (NIV) *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—[9] not by works, so that no one can boast.*

John 14:6 (NIV) *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

Acts 4:12 (NIV) *Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.*

- In essential beliefs — we have unity.

"There is one Body and one Spirit...there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism -Ephesians 4:4

- In non-essential beliefs — we have liberty.

"Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters Romans 14:1

- In all our beliefs — we show charity.

"...If I hold in my mind not only all human knowledge… and if I have the faith that can move mountains — but have no love, I amount to nothing at all." 1 Cor. 13:2

Essentials:

Trinity: God Is

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons, the Father, Son, and Spirit. These three Persons are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinctly but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption.

Revelation: God Speaks

We believe that God primarily speaks to us through the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

Creation: God Makes

We believe that God is our Creator and He created us to love us and reflect His glory. Creation tells us a lot about God. The doctrine of creation sets the stage for the coming of Jesus Christ, who came to connect heaven to earth and be the Mediator between God and man. If we remove the doctrine of creation, we become accidents, purposeless, our lives become meaningless.

Image: God Loves

We believe that God made man in His image. Originally, He made us without sin. Yet even as sinful people saved by grace, we are called to be His image bearers. He created humans male and female in His image. Equal, yet distinct. And that marriage is designed to be between a man and a woman. Do we love everyone. YES. But you can love people and disagree with them.

Fall: God Judges

We believe, that ever since the Fall when sin entered the world, that all people are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore, under condemnation. All people are marred by sin. Yet those who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior are made new again by the Holy Spirit.

Covenant: God Pursues

We believe God continues to pursue His people by establishing covenants. In a covenant, we come to God on His terms. God established covenants with Noah, Abraham, Moses and David. The new covenant came through Jesus Christ, where we live out our relationship with Him.

Incarnation: God Comes

We believe in the incarnation of Jesus, that God took on flesh and came into our world. People knew God would come because He revealed to them who would come, where He would come, when He would come, and why He would come. Jesus was born of a virgin, was sinless, fully God and fully man.

Cross: God Dies

We believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross as our substitutionary atonement for our sins. His death substituted His life for the life of every believer. The sacrificial system of the Old Testament points to the truth that someone or something has to die for sins. Jesus diverts the wrath of God that people deserve for their sins onto Himself.

Resurrection: God Saves
We believe that after Jesus Christ died on the cross, and on the third day, He literally rose from the dead. The resurrection of Jesus is proof that His teaching was and is truth and that we can trust Him. If Jesus rose from the dead, He will raise believers from the dead to be with Him forever.

Church: God Sends
We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world.

Worship: God Transforms
We believe worship is not an aspect of our being but the essence of our being as God's image bearers. We are not created to worship, but rather we are created worshipping. For believers, every decision is an act of worship. Singing and music is only one small part.

Stewardship: God Gives
We believe that God gave His very best in sending His Son. As God is a giver, He asks us to also be givers. There are over 800 verses in Scripture on the subject of giving. Money and wealth are among the greatest idols in our culture. If we love money, we use God and people. If we love God, we are free to use money to love God and people.

Kingdom: God Reigns
We believe God's Kingdom is the result of God's mission to rescue and renew His sin-marred creation through Jesus as our King. It's our responsibility to expand His kingdom to as many people as possible.

Keep the main thing the main thing.

2). Vision/Mission
Mission: To help people Start, Strengthen, and Share their journey with God.

Vision: Prevail.

Matthew 16:18 (ESV) *And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

Plant Community Groups
Reach Surrounding Neighborhoods
Expanding our campus
Virtual presence
Additional Staff
Intentional Discipleship
Leadership Development

Non Essentials (preferences):

3). How do I get involved in that church?
1). Grace

2). Guard

3). Gifts

4). Groups

5). Give

"God's money has a higher purpose than my affluence... Giving affirms Christ's lordship. It dethrones me and exalts Him... Giving shifts me to a new center of gravity - heaven." -Randy Alcorn, *The Treasure Principle*