

21st CENTURY CHURCH

WEEK 1: That's So Last Century

PURPOSE OF THE GROUP: To give everyone in the group the opportunity to find authentic community and spiritual growth. A group is where you are known, and you grow.

YOUR PERSONAL ROLE: Watch or listen to the message. Show up at group. Be real. (Life is better connected)

INTRODUCTION:

The church got off to an incredible start, but over time some old traditions and legalistic thinking showed up. It still does today and has caused the church to repel people rather than welcome them. This was never Jesus' brand he wanted for the church.

📺 WATCH THE MESSAGE VIDEO ON THE ROCKPOINTE APP OR WEBSITE OR WALK THROUGH THE POINTS OF THE MESSAGE IN THE NOTES SECTION.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:

1. When you hear the word "church," what comes to mind? Why?
2. What are some things you think repel people from Christians and the church? Are their assessments fair? Why or why not?
3. During the message, Shayne said, "*Many of the things people resist about the church are things the church should resist.*" Have you ever felt rejected or unloved by a church? If so, how did it affect the way you viewed God or Jesus?
4. Do you tend to think of the church as an institution or a movement? How do you think that influences the way you think about and relate to God?
5. In Matthew 5:44, Jesus challenges his followers to "*love your enemies.*" You may not think you have enemies, but who are people who make you uncomfortable or pull you out of your comfort zone? What would it look like to love those people?
6. In what ways do you find yourself tempted to relate to God based on the old temple ways that were focused on sacred locations, text and men?
7. What is one thing you can do to better love God, your neighbor, and your enemy?

When Jesus showed up it brought an end to the old temple ways and the beginning of something entirely new—no more holy places and no more sacred people. The Old Testament law was fulfilled, and those laws summarized to a single action step—*love*—toward God, neighbors, and enemies. The church got off to an incredible start, but over time the old temple way of thinking resurfaced. It's still with us today. It makes the church repel people. But together we will challenge it at every turn.

KEY VERSE OF THE WEEK: John 13:34–35

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

HOW CAN THIS GROUP PRAY FOR YOU THIS WEEK?

ASK SOMEONE TO PRAY TO END THE GROUP TIME.