

PENTECOST - May 28, 2023

Reasons I Believe -

Answering the Seven Most Common Objections to Christianity

Today's message:

"I like the teachings of Jesus, but I am not sure about the church."

Scripture: Selected verses from Acts chapter 2 (CEB)

¹ When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place.

² Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. ⁴ They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak...

³⁸ Peter replied, "Change your hearts and lives. Each of you must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ This promise is for you, your children, and for all who are far away—as many as the Lord our God invites." ⁴⁰ With many other words he testified to them and encouraged them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." ⁴¹ Those who accepted Peter's message were baptized. God brought about three thousand people into the community on that day.

⁴² The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. ⁴³ A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were united and shared everything. ⁴⁵ They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them. ⁴⁶ Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity.

⁴⁷ They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved.

~ SERMON NOTES ~

Pentecost is the day that we celebrate the birthday of the Church of Jesus Christ, which also raises a question: What is it about the Church that turns off so many people? Many say that they like the teachings of Jesus but can do without organized religion. Is it possible to have one without the other?

Let me offer some positive things about why we should give church another chance:

1. Closeness to _____.

How many great moments with God have you missed? How many life-changing moments with God have you missed...simply because you weren't there?

2. Connection to _____.

Statistics show that people who go to church regularly are happier and more fulfilled than those who do not. It adds years to your life and life to your years!

3. Call to _____.

Jesus did not call a single Priest or Rabbi to be one of His disciples. He called ordinary people just like you to help do his work.

