

**“When Church is Over, but Isn’t”**  
“How to Get the Most Out of Church” — Part 7  
*Colossians 3:12-17*

***Church is a constant interplay between encountering God  
and encountering the people of God around us.***

**Review:**

**1. The church is all about grace!**

***Love sees a need and tries to meet it.  
Selfishness sees a need and does nothing about it,  
or worse, complains about it.***

**2. The church is all about sound doctrine.**

***In the essentials unity.  
In the non-essentials liberty.  
In all things love.***

**3. The church is all about gifts and service.**

**Maturity is evidenced in cooperation.**

Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise,  
making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

Ephesians 5:15-16 (NASB)

**There is more to church than the hour we meet!**

**1. Encourage one another with God’s Word.**

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

**2. Help each other understand God’s word.**

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom...

Colossians 3:12-16

### 3. Ask someone how you can pray for them.

...pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

James 5:16

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship...

Acts 2:42

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:46-47

**Application:** Next week we will begin to meet at a new location. I pray that we will meet with a new purpose also, to be the church, not just go to church. If we begin to grasp all that God has planned for us as He gathers His church, then great things will happen at Grace. When the church understands and engages in what God has made His church all about, that church can't help but make a difference.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25

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