

# Untangled 1 – Can I Still Trust The Church

## Untangled Bumper

Welcome to Redemption Church.

We exist to help people Find and Follow Jesus. My name is Chris Fluitt.

We are in the first week of our new series.

## Untangled

Faith can feel tangled.

- Pain
- Hypocrisy
- Questions that don't have easy answers.

...Maybe you've noticed-life doesn't always line up with the simple answers we were given as kids. Back in Sunday school, everything seemed black and white. But then life happened. Marriage got

complicated. Money got tight. People disappointed you. And those neat little answers didn't always seem as certain.

And let's be real-

Nowhere in Scripture does it say life is supposed to be easy, carefree, and full of quick answers. What we do see, again and again, is Jesus welcoming people who bring their honest questions. He never rejected someone who came searching.

That's why this series matters. We're not here to pretend. We're here to untangle some of the tough questions of faith and life-together.

Here's where we're going in the next few weeks:

## Outline

- **Next week: *Is the Bible Still Legit?***  
Some people say it's outdated or

contradictory. We'll take a fresh look and ask if that's really true.

- **Week 3: *What If I Have Big Doubts?***  
Can faith survive when you're full of questions?
- **Week 4: *Is Jesus Even Worth Following?***  
Some say Jesus was just another religious leader, just another person. What are we to believe?

## 30 Honest Questions eBook

And to help us go deeper, we created a free e-book with *30 of the most tangled life and faith questions people are asking right now*. Grab it, use it, and don't be afraid to start real conversations.

And today-we're going to answer a really hectic question: ***Can I Still Trust the Church?***

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I'll never forget the first time I got hurt by the church...

- Not a little misunderstanding - but something that cut deep.
- Not from a stranger - but from people who claimed to know Jesus.
- ...*"If this is church, do I even want to be part of it?"*

Maybe you've been there. Maybe you've got scars from church people too.

We don't have to look far to find people who walked away from church because of church hurt.

- Ministries collapse in scandal.
- Sexual abuse covered up.
- Spiritual abuse ignored.
- Greed instead of service.
- Online Arguments between Christians.

If that feels like hypocrisy to you, you're not wrong. It is hypocrisy. And it's painful.

So the question makes sense: *If this is what church looks like... should we just throw it away?*

What does Jesus have to say about this?

## 1. **Jesus Confronted Church Hurt**

Jesus does this A LOT. He has strong words...

Matthew 23:13 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to."

- *"Blind guides!"*
- *"You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but*

*on the inside are full of the bones of the dead.”*

- *“You belong to your father, the devil”* (John 8:44).
- And in the temple, He flipped the tables and shouted, *“You have made my Father’s house a den of thieves”* (Matthew 21:13).

And remember-Jesus didn’t say these things about the addict outside the church or the sinner in the streets. He said them to ministers inside the temple.

So if you think you see hypocrisy in the church-you probably aren’t mistaken.

But does that mean it’s okay to throw away the church? *Not according to Jesus.*

## **2. Jesus Promised His Church Would Prevail**

Jesus claims His Church for himself.

Jesus claims to build His Church.

Jesus promises victory over hell.

Matthew 16:18 – “Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”

This is the 1<sup>st</sup> time CHURCH is mentioned in Scripture.

Now, here’s something you may not know.

Kirche (Church) – A building. The Lord’s House.

Our English word *church* comes from the German word *Kirche*, which meant “the Lord’s house” or simply “a building.”

Ekklesia (Church) - A community of called-out ones)

But Jesus didn’t use that word. He used *ekklesia*-a Greek word meaning “the called-

out ones,” a gathered community, a movement of people.

## William Tyndale (1494–1536) Bible Translator

That distinction mattered so much that William Tyndale, one of the first to translate the Bible into English, refused to translate *ekklesia* as “church.” He translated it as *congregation*. He wanted people to know Jesus was building people, not buildings.

That choice cost him dearly. Tyndale was betrayed, arrested, and in 1536 he was strangled and burned at the stake for giving ordinary people the Word of God in English. His last prayer was, “*Lord, open the King of England’s eyes.*” And within a few years, English Bibles flooded the nation. His words shaped almost every English Bible since.

Here’s the point: **Jesus is not just building facilities, organizations, or power**

structures. He's building a people!

Jesus is building a living, breathing community that not even persecution, scandal, or hypocrisy can destroy. The gates of hell cannot stop what Jesus is building.

### 3. **The Church is a Team**

Jesus is not just building *an audience* - He's building *a team*.

And who does Jesus invite onto His team?  
Peter.

The same Peter who sank when he tried to walk on water.

The same Peter who pulled out a sword and cut off someone's ear.

The same Peter who swore three times, "I don't even know Him."

And yet Jesus looked at Peter and said in Matthew 16:18: *“I will build my church.”*

Jesus is the one doing the building. And here’s the good news: He invited Peter - failures, flaws, and all - to be part of it.

The church has never been about perfect people. It has always been about a perfect Savior building with imperfect teammates.

That means there’s room for you. If Peter was invited in, so are you. And not just you - but your neighbor, your coworker, your family member, the skeptic, the struggler, the addict, the outcast. The team Jesus is building is big enough for all of us.

#### 4. **Jesus Redefines the Church**

If the *ekklesia*... the team... the church... is more than a building, then maybe we need Jesus to redefine our thinking.

Because here's the truth: Jesus did not come to bring us just another religion. He came to bring us a new way of life, a new kind of community.

John 13:35 – *“By this everyone will know you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*

That's His definition.

- Not by the size of our buildings.
- Not by how polished our services are.
- Not by our denominational labels.
- Not by doctrinal debates.
- Not by politics or traditions.

But by love.

And that's where we've gotten tangled, isn't it? Over the centuries, churches have split over style, over leadership, over secondary doctrines. We've let denominations divide us, and sometimes we've even defined

ourselves more by what we're *against* than by what we're *for*.

But Jesus says the defining mark of His people is love. The kind of love that forgives. The kind of love that restores. The kind of love that welcomes the broken in.

And if the church has ever hurt you, I want you to know this:

**Jesus is not the one who hurt you.**

Don't give up on Jesus because of bad teammates. People may have failed you, but Jesus has not.

***Can I Still Trust the Church?***

So here's the question for you: will you let the failure of people cause you to abandon the plan of God?

Jesus sees your hurt. He grieves with you. But He still invites you to healing.

Instead of asking, *Can I trust the church?* maybe the better question is...

*Can I trust Jesus to show me what His church is supposed to be?*

## **SO WHAT CAN WE DO?**

When it comes to church hurt, we can't just leave it sitting there. It has to be addressed. This team is important. What Jesus is building matters.

So what can we do about it?

## **3 Steps for Those Hurt by the Church** **progressive click**

If you've been hurt by the church, here are three steps you can begin today:

1. **Be honest with God about your pain. Don't hide it.**

He already knows, but He wants you to bring it to Him. Pour it out in prayer.

Write it in a journal. Say it out loud if you need to.

2. **Separate who Jesus is from what people did.** People may have failed you, but Jesus never has. Don't give up on Him because of bad teammates.
3. **Take one small step toward healing.** That might mean praying, choosing forgiveness, or talking to someone safe who will walk with you. Healing is a process - but it starts with one small step.

### **3 Steps for the Church to Repent and Do Better** [progressive click](#)

And if we are the church, here's how we can do better:

1. **Own our failures and apologize.** Stop making excuses. Repent.

2. **Protect the vulnerable instead of protecting reputations.** Jesus always defended the hurting - so must we.
  3. **Lead with love, not pride.** Let love, not ego, define every decision.
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Now imagine this with me: a church where love is louder than hypocrisy. A church where those who have been wounded find healing. A church where the name of Jesus is lifted high, not dragged down by scandal. Imagine that kind of church rising up in our hurting cities - feeding the hungry, walking with families in crisis, lifting up the poor, and showing compassion to the overlooked. Imagine that kind of church carrying hope across the world - feeding and caring for children and orphans in war-torn countries, standing with believers facing persecution,

bringing clean water, medicine, and education where despair once ruled.

Imagine that kind of church opening its arms wide so that people who were once outcasts, outsiders, and overlooked can JOIN THE TEAM.

Matthew 16:18 – *“Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”*

And this isn't just a dream - it's the promise of Jesus. *“Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”*

## Musicians

That's not just words from 2,000 years ago - it's the foundation of our hope today. Jesus takes hurt and turns it into hope. He takes brokenness and builds something beautiful. He takes failure and creates a future.

That's the vision. That's the church He is building - and He's inviting us to be part of it.

### **3 Actions for a Healing Church**

If Jesus is building His *ekklesia* - His team - then here are three actions we can take together to become a healing church:

#### **1. Let's inspect our role in the team.**

Are we contributors or just consumers? A healthy church is built when every person brings their gifts, their love, and their service.

#### **2. Re-commit to Jesus and to others.**

Let's make things right - with God and with each other. That may mean asking forgiveness. It may mean extending forgiveness. It definitely means giving Jesus our whole heart again.

### **3. Pray and worship together.**

Have you hurt someone – Repent.

Have you been hurt by someone – Come receive prayer.

Fix our eyes on Jesus.