



# THIS IS MY CHURCH

## Discussion Guide

October 14, 2018

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### Introduction

The Church of which Christ is head is God's means of infiltrating the world and calling the creation back to himself in worship. The people of Parkside are a part of a culture-turning, world upside-downing movement that subverts the agenda of Satan and brings the will of God to earth as it is done in heaven.

Let's talk about this.

### Discussion Questions

1. When people point to current events that cause them to be leery of the "organized church", what are things we can say in response that turn impressions back in a positive direction? What positive things could you say to them about your church?
2. You may have heard someone say something to this effect: "I love Jesus and follow him fully, but I don't need to attend or be a part of a church in order to do that." How would you respond to that statement in a conversation? Do you agree with that statement, disagree, or are you somewhere in between?
3. Go around your group and read what the Apostle Paul has to say about the relationship between Jesus and "the church." **Ephesians 1:22-23, 2:19-22, 3:10, 5:22-32, 1 Timothy 3:14-15.** Based on these statements, what are the takeaways regarding the church as to its importance, value and worth?
4. **Read Matthew 16:15-19.** Bart made the point that the word *church* [which means "house of God"] was a word substituted by translators for the word Jesus actually used which was *ekklesia*, properly translated in English to mean "an assembly or gathering of people." In Greek and Roman culture, the *ekklesia* was a political body, dedicated in each locale to see that the will of the emperor was accomplished. How does this word give definition to what the church should be accomplishing in the world today? Are you a part of helping Parkside accomplish that will of God?

5. **Read Matthew 5:13,14.** In what areas of our community can you see a need for Parkside to come alongside and have the positive effect of salt and light? Brainstorm some ideas as to how that coming alongside can happen.

6. **Read John 13:34,35.** Is it unrealistic to think that simply by loving people in the way that Jesus loved/loves us, that people can be drawn to Christ, systems can become more just and fair, schools can be more effective, towns and cities can become better places to live? Can you point to situations where that has happened or is happening?

**Moving Forward:**

This coming Sunday, a positive challenge will be presented for everyone affiliated with Parkside to be *all in* as to our mission, vision and purpose, and to declare for *Partnership* with our church if you have never done that. If you have already declared for *Partnership* [otherwise known as Membership], what prompted you to take that step? If you have not declared for *Partnership*, what is causing you to hesitate? If it is a simple matter of not knowing what that involves, this coming Sunday will clear that up for you.