

## THE IDENTITY OF THE CHURCH

### PRECEPT

1 Corinthians 8:3

<sup>3</sup>The person who loves God is the one whom God recognizes.

### PROMISE

The sad reality of the many local churches today. Church becomes about them instead of about God. People in the church become all about “Me, myself, and I.” It’s about what they want rather than what Jesus wants. It becomes about how the church serves me rather than how I can serve others. A self-centred approach to church life is not the Church Jesus is building, and a ‘Me’ church stains the identity of the Ekklesia that Jesus is building. Have you heard about Church Hurts? Church Hurts are the reasons people leave the church. If people do not repent in the ‘Me’ Church, they will start hurting people inside and outside of the church. It stains the identity of the church, which can lead to isolation or disconnection from faith.

The true identity of the Church is Love. Love God with your whole being. Our motivation should be in 1 John 4:19 for it says, “We love because He first loved us.” Love in Action:

Lean into Him daily, prioritize time in prayer and scripture over distractions. Offer sincere worship, worship with authenticity and not just singing empty songs. Value His Word through obedience, and obey even when it is hard, uncomfortable, or inconvenient. Entrust everything to Him, surrender your plans and dreams, and trust Him fully in trials and blessings. Love people in real, visible, practical ways.

John 13:35 tells us, “Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” Live it out with action, show up, serve, and support—even when they don’t see it or is inconvenient. Open your heart to others, forgive, include the forgotten, and listen without judgment. Value people over pride, always choose unity, grace, and generosity—even when it is difficult. Extend the truth in love, share the gospel and speak the truth with compassion, not condemnation.

May we bring back the true identity of the church; let us restore and rebuild love as a true expression of the church. It’s who we are called to be. Let’s be that Church, the Church that Jesus is building. The Church the world needs and God will recognize us, and people will recognize us. God will see our true identity, and as a result, people will sense and see the true identity of the church. Imagine a church where everything they do is out of love and a church so full of love that the world can’t ignore it.

### PRACTICE

1. **Church.** Have you ever experience Church hurt? And how did you deal with it?

2. **Our identity.** Is there anything that’s hindering you from showing Love to others? And how can we encourage and pray for you regarding this?

### PRAYER

#### I. Service

- Pray that we may serve God and His people faithfully and proclaim His truth boldly.

#### II. Gifts

- Pray that we may be equipped with the gifts of the Spirit to serve God.

#### III. Trust

- When we face uncertainty, may we be reminded of His love and faithfulness.

#### IV. Hope

- In times of uncertainty and struggle, let us turn to God for hope and trust His plan.

#### V. Healing

- We lift up those in need of God’s healing touch. May they have comfort & restoration.

#### VI. Prayer

- Let us pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, and rejoice always.

#### VII. Worship Services

- May more new people come and experience God in a personal way.