



Pastor Ray Wrinkle

Staying Connected

Matt 16:13-19

Story – Russian astronaut, mocking USA about not seeing God
Reply, “Disconnect your lifeline, and you will see Him alright”

CHURCH – Your Life line

Astronaut, Baby – Cut off supply = Death, Drift or Buried

1. PLACE OF CONNECTION

History of the Church

Abraham	Particular People Projected Place Prosperous Plan	Father of the Jewish Nation Israel, Promised Land People as the stars above
Moses	Given a Plan to meet God in Person Tabernacle in the wilderness 12 Tribes of Israel camped there Stayed connected to the Tabernacle God led them – Cloud by day, Fire by Night	
Solomon	Built a permanent place for God to dwell Temple – Place of sacrifice and worship People worshipped the building more than the Lord	
Jesus	Church was to be in the Hearts of Believers N.T. Church – Worship in spirit & in truth <i>Matt 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.</i> Bride of Christ – Jesus died for his Bride	

Common Deviation - Literal place to go to Worship the Lord

2. PLACE OF CONVICTION

*1Kings 1:50-51 And Adonijah feared because of Solomon, and arose, and went, and caught hold on the horns of the altar.
And it was told Solomon, saying, Behold, Adonijah feareth king Solomon: for, lo, he hath caught hold on the horns of the altar, saying, Let king Solomon swear unto me today that he will not slay his servant with the sword.*

Adonijah made a bad decision
He needed a place of refuge

Abraham, David, John the Baptist

They had no place to go in time of need
Matt 16:18 Jesus established that place – Local Church
Peter – Petros, means “little stone”
Rock – Petra, means “giant rock”

O.T. Law - *Exod 20:8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.*
N.T. Law - *Heb 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

Common Devise – ALTAR
What separates regular meeting from “The Church”

3. PLACE OF CORRECTION

Turning FROM to turning TO
Acts 20:21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

Church is Hospital
People come that need help
Not a time to condemn, but to sincerely lend a hand to help
Story – Cutting my arm, didn’t need criticism, needed HELP

2Chrn 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Seek my face – Local Church
The MORE you commit to the Lord – The more He commits to you
Story – My life...changed when I devoted myself to going to Church

Common Denominator – Person that gets away from the Lord

1st Church service they miss
Backslidden – Believers move on without you

LIFE LINE to every Christian = LOCAL CHURCH