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“Christians collectively seem to be suffering from a strange amnesia. A high proportion of people who go to church have forgotten what it is all about. Week by week they attend service in a special building and go through their particular

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time-honored routine, but give little thought to the purpose of what they are doing. The Bible talks much about the bride of Christ, but the church today seems more like a ragged Cinderella.”

—Michael Griffiths

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³⁷Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

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³⁹For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” ⁴⁰And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.”

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⁴¹So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. ⁴²And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

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⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes,

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they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

—Acts 2:37-47

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NT Church = Gathering of People Who Share a
Common Confession of Faith
in Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38)

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“Repentance is a grace of God’s Spirit whereby a sinner is inwardly humbled and visibly reformed.” —Thomas Watson

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“Baptism is an issue of obedience for every individual believer and an integrity issue for every local church.”

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NT Church = Gathering of People Who Share a
Common Craving for Biblical
Instruction

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Received—Baptized—Added—Devoted

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“You cannot build a healthy church
without a high view and humble
adherence to Scripture.”

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NT Church = Gathering of People Who Share a
Common Identity in Biblical
Community (Acts 2:42, 46)

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Life Groups

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“At Warren we believe
genuine biblical community
means living in caring
relationships that are guided
by biblical truth and grounded
in spiritual accountability.”

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NT Church = Gathering of People Who Share a
Common Commitment to
Generosity (Acts 2:45)

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“Ministry that costs nothing,
accomplishes nothing.”
—J.H. Jowett

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NT Church = Gathering of People Who Share a
Common Hope in a Sure Salvation
(Acts 2:46-47)

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“...a community of people who
stand firm in truth over time
against raging currents of
opposition and who present living
proof of a loving God to a
watching world.” —Robert Lewis

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