

Our Theology—What We Believe and Teach About God—Is Not Innovative.

God will do the necessary work to bring about light and life. God brings his light into the world through Jesus Christ, according to the Gospel of John (John 1:5). Into the darkness, God speaks, God creates, God is present, God becomes flesh, God dwells among us, God gives eternal life. God makes all the initial moves. And through those actions, brings life. God is in charge.

So if God is in charge, does that mean I don't have to do anything? Do I have any part in getting other people to come to Jesus? What are we responsible for?

First, we are responsible for ourselves. For our growth as Christians. God will begin to use us. Ultimately, God reaches others by using us – each of us – as his instruments of grace. The “Church” is the assembly of people God has called out for special service. In particular, this special service is the sharing of the good news that God, the creator of the universe, is present and that God does love you, cares about you, wants to play a major role in your life, and desires you to play a major role in the building up of His kingdom here and now.

The Assembly, or congregation, is the community in which we learn the Christian faith, practice its virtues, and receive the profound gifts of God that can transform our lives and the lives of those around us. The congregation provides opportunities for studying God's word, for learning and practicing prayer, for coming together as a community to worship, for learning how to be generous and express that generosity in the world, for practicing being thankful and graceful. Through the Church, God offers all these opportunities. And by doing so, God shapes us into a community for learning and practicing the heart of His message: the forgiveness of sins.

But God does not force His will upon the individual; God calls, but God does not force. God initiates, but it's up to the person to respond. In the meantime, open yourself to the Spirit's work within others and within the Church. Respond to the call of God's Spirit so that you may have life and have it abundantly. Respond to the call of God's Spirit so that through you God can change the world.

Excerpt taken from <https://www.davidschweppe.com/Death-of-the-Church-.html>