



## 8/6/23 Message — “A La Carte Christianity”

**CONNECT:** Nostalgia time! What’s something from a previous decade that you miss? Even if it wasn’t really that great (e.g., waterbeds).

### GROW:

1. In **Acts 11:26**, Jesus’ followers were first identified as “Christians.” This is a noun meaning “Little Christ.” How has the word “Christian” changed over the years?
2. Jon gave a brief English grammar lesson in regard to our church:

*Nouns need verbs, and verbs need adverbs.*

Our plural noun is church.

Our general verb is love, and our specific verb is serve.

Our adverbs are humbly and kindly.

  - Share about a time when you were served humbly and/or kindly by a Christian or by the church.
3. When a church misses the mark, it can become like a restaurant (feed me), a theater (entertain me), or a pharmacy (fix me). Why is it a problem when a church operates in these ways?
4. Paul writes in **Galatians 5:6**, “The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.” What are some practical ways to express your faith through love?
  - a. How can you do this humbly?
  - b. How can you do this kindly?
5. **Read Acts 2:42-47**. What does it look like for you to participate in the church in a way that follows this example set by the first church?

**PRAY:** Depending on how your conversation goes, consider leading the prayer in a few ways:

1. Asking God to reveal how we have misused or misrepresented the church—repent and ask forgiveness for this.
2. Ask God to reveal who we need to go serve, and ask for boldness to do so.
3. Some people in your group may need help locking arms with the church. Pray for them to take next steps in healing and growing.

**NEXT:** “Servants can go places kings cannot.” You are a servant. Where do you need to serve humbly and kindly? Who in your life needs somebody to lock arms with them? Will you be that person to serve them?