

The Dream Church Doesn't Exist

1 Peter 2:4-5, 9; John 12

Uncomfortable Part 1 of 4

Pastor Nate Marsh September 7, 2025

Church is awkward, inconvenient, frustrating at times, and sometimes painfully uncomfortable.



There is no perfect church, but there is a perfect God.

1. Church Is Not about Our _____; It's about Knowing God

1 Peter 2:4-5; 9

Each of us is being chiseled, shaped, sometimes uncomfortably, so we fit together into God's house.

2. The Christian Life Is Supposed to Be _____, So We Must Embrace the Discomfort.

John 12:25-26, Luke 9:23, John 15:17-19; 21

We are to strive for *unity*, not *uniformity*.

Real Christian community takes hard work—apologies, forgiveness, patience, grace, and understanding.

Weekly Application Step

Here's the challenge for this week: Instead of asking, "What can my church do for me?" ask, "How can I embrace the awkward and uncomfortable for the sake of Christ and His people?"

That might mean choosing to pray with someone you don't normally talk to. It might mean serving in a ministry that stretches you. It might mean letting go of a preference you've been holding onto. Or it might simply mean staying put, refusing to run when things get messy.

Write it down, pray over it, and then act on it. Don't chase the dream church—be the kind of living stone that helps build God's house.

Questions for Further Study

1. Read John 12:25–26. What does Jesus mean when He says, “Anyone who loves his life will lose it”? How does this challenge the way our culture pursues comfort?
2. Read 1 Peter 2:9. According to Peter, what is the purpose of God’s people? How does this verse reshape your expectations of what church is for?
3. Read Luke 9:23. What does Jesus mean when He says we must “take up [our] cross daily”? How does this connect to how we live in community with other believers?
4. Read John 15:17–19. Why is following Jesus often uncomfortable in the world? How might those same pressures also show up inside the church?
5. What ‘dream church’ expectations do you need to let go of? Write them below.