A stone wall made of large, irregular grey stones. In the bottom right corner, there is a bright sun flare with rays of light. The foreground shows some dry grass.

**How has the pandemic  
impacted the church?**



*The*

CHURCH



# 1- The Bride of Christ:

*Why is the church essential?*

# 2- The Household of God:

*How does the church relate together?*

# 3- The Body of Christ:

*How does the church grow together?*

# 4- The Temple of God:

*What is the purpose of the church?*

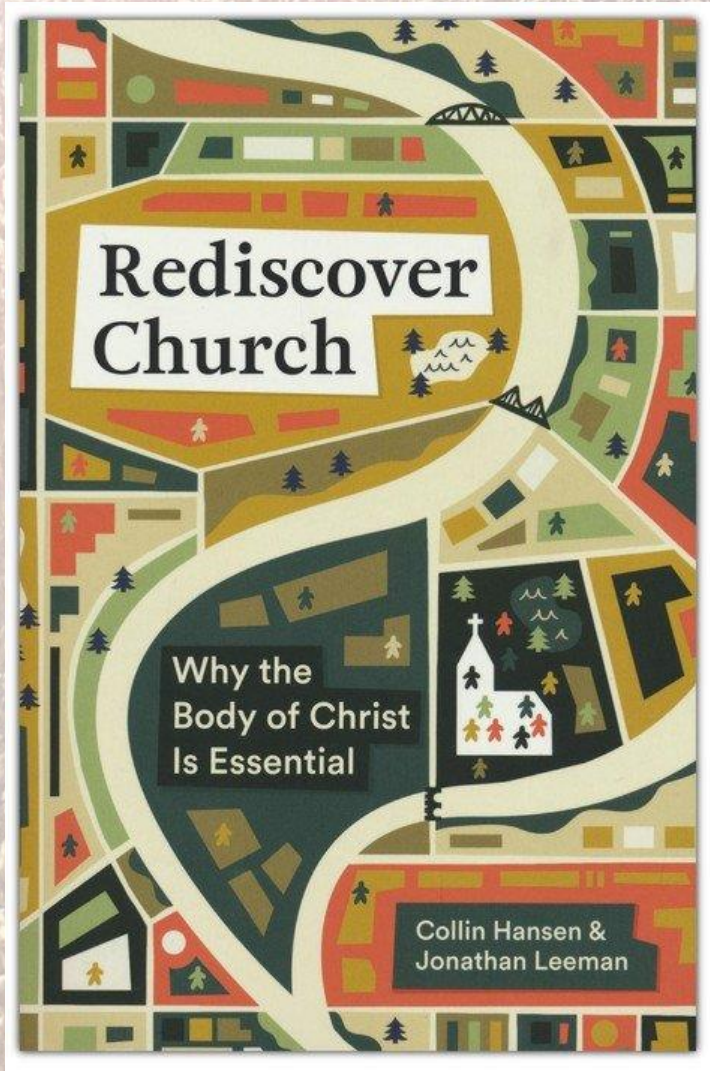
*The*  
**CHURCH**



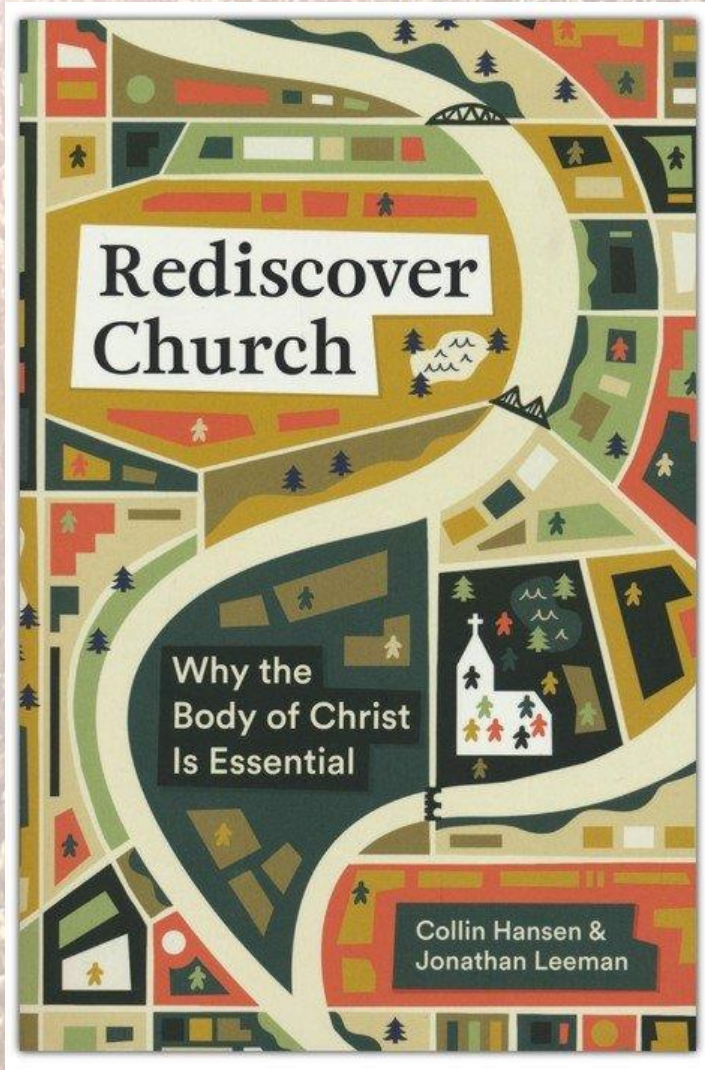
*The*

CHURCH









“This book aims to help you rediscover church so that you both understand what a church is and in turn discover the richness of living as a brother or sister in the family of God; the joy of living as one part of Christ’s body united to other parts of the body; and the countercultural power of living as one brick in the holy temple where God dwells on earth now. We want you to experience all these benefits and blessings, both for your own sake and for the sake of your non-Christian friends and neighbors. More than anything else, your non-Christian friends need not just your gospel words but also a gospel community that testifies to the truth of those gospel words.”



*The*

CHURCH



*The*

**CHURCH**

**What is the Church?**



“Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’<sup>14</sup> And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’<sup>15</sup> He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter replied, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’<sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.’<sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.<sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

– Matthew 16:16-19



# What is the Church?

Matthew 16:13-19

1. The Church is built on the Gospel confession.
2. The Church is Jesus' plan to bring salvation to earth and cannot be stopped.
3. The Church holds the keys to the Kingdom of heaven.

*The*  
**CHURCH**



*The*

**CHURCH**

**What is the Church?**



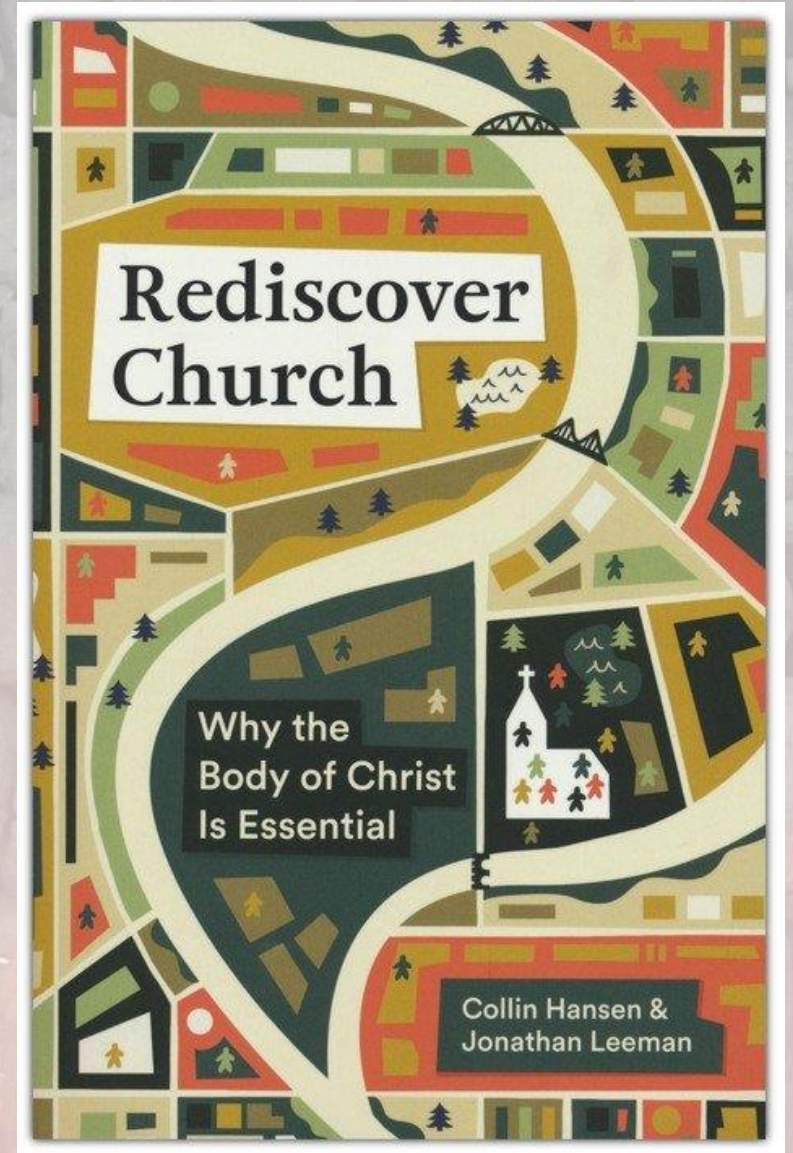
# What is the Church?

A local church is an organized and committed family of Christians, led by elders and deacons, who gather regularly to worship Jesus Christ, sit under the teaching of God's Word, practice Baptism and the Lord's Supper, love and serve one another, and live out and proclaim the Gospel as a light to the world.

*The*  
**CHURCH**



“Regularly assembling or gathering makes a church a church. This doesn’t mean a church stops being a church when the people aren’t gathered, any more than a soccer team stops being a team when the members are not playing. The point is, regularly gathering together is necessary for a church to be a church, just like a team has to gather to play in order to be a team.”





*The*

CHURCH



A field of golden wheat with a stone archway in the background. The text is overlaid on the image.

**Why should we  
cherish the Church?**

*The*  
**CHURCH**



*The*

**CHURCH**

**The Bride of Christ**



“For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. <sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup> that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup> so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. <sup>28</sup> In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, <sup>30</sup> because we are members of his body.”

– Ephesians 5:23-30



# The Church is the Bride of Christ

Ephesians 5:23-30

1. Christ loves the Church and gave himself up for her.
2. Christ cleanses the Church, so that she would be hold on the day of his return.
3. The Church submits to Christ as her head.

*The*  
**CHURCH**



*The*

CHURCH



# The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**