

Let the Church Say Amen (Out Loud)—When *the Church Stops Talking to Itself*

Matthew 16:18; Luke 15; Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18–20

WHEN AMEN STAYS INSIDE THE BUILDING

We just came out of a season where the church said *Amen*—Loud. Confident. Unified. But here's the question that won't let us off easy; **what happens to our Amen once we leave the sanctuary?** Because if *Amen* only echoes inside church walls, then it's not agreement—it's performance. If the church only affirms truth among people who already believe it then we are not salt—we are seasoning still in the shaker. Jesus did not die so the church could become a spiritual echo chamber. He died so the church could become a **living witness**.

THE CONFESSION THAT CREATES A COMMISSION

Matthew 16 is where we've been standing, "On this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." We love that verse. We quote it. We celebrate it. But we often forget what comes *after* the confession. Because a true confession of Christ always leads to a **commission** from Christ.

Peter says, "*You are the Christ.*" Jesus says, "*Then you are sent.*" The church is built not to sit. The church is built to **advance**.

And notice what Jesus says the church is up against, **Gates**. Gates don't move. Gates don't chase. Gates don't attack. Which means hell is not storming the church—**the church is supposed to be storming hell**. Yet somehow, somewhere along the way, we flipped the posture.

WHEN THE CHURCH BECOMES COMFORTABLE

Let's be honest. Somewhere along the line:

- Outreach became optional.
- Evangelism became awkward.
- And mission became something "other churches do."

We built services hoping lost people might wander in, while Jesus kept sending His followers out.

Acts 1:8 doesn't say, "You will be My witnesses if they come." It says, "You will be My witnesses...to the ends of the earth."

The early church did not ask, "Will this attract people?" They asked, "Will this obey Jesus?" And the result? "The Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

THE HEART OF GOD HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUTWARD

If you ever want to know what God values, look at what He goes looking for.

Luke 15 tells us:

- A shepherd leaves the 99 for the 1.
- A woman tears the house apart for a lost coin.
- A father runs toward a returning son.

Jesus is clear; Heaven throws a party over **one lost person**. Which means if the church is not concerned about who's missing, we are out of sync with heaven.

Outreach is not marketing. It's alignment with the heart of God.

WHY PEOPLE STOP COMING—AND WHY THAT'S NOT THE END

Let's address the tension in the room. Some people don't see the value of church because:

- They were hurt.
- They were judged.
- They were ignored.
- Or they never saw the church live what it preached.

And here's the hard truth, Sometimes the church gave them reasons. But Jesus never said, "Build a perfect church." He said, "Build My church." Which means our responsibility is not to defend our image—it's to **reflect His love**.

The answer to church wounds is not church abandonment. It's church renewal.

OUTREACH IS NOT A PROGRAM—IT'S A POSTURE

Outreach is not a committee. It's a calling. It's not an event. It's an everyday decision.

Outreach looks like:

- listening before speaking
- serving before preaching
- loving before convincing

Peter says:

"Live such good lives among the pagans that...they may see your good deeds and glorify God."

Some people will never read a Bible—But they will read **your life**. And the question is, What gospel are they reading?

THE CHURCH AT THE GATES

Jesus didn't say the gates of hell would overpower the church. He said they wouldn't **hold up**.

Which means:

- The church belongs on the front lines.
- The church belongs in broken places.
- The church belongs where hope feels thin.

If the church waits for the world to come to it, we will miss the mission altogether.

FROM AGREEMENT TO ACTION

Here's where it gets uncomfortable—in the best way. Saying *Amen* today means asking:

- Who am I praying for but not engaging?
- Who am I avoiding because it's inconvenient?
- Where has God already placed me as a witness?

You don't need a microphone. You don't need a title. You don't need permission. You just need obedience.

LET THE CHURCH SAY AMEN—OUT LOUD

This year, we are not just talking about the church. We are becoming the church. And it starts here, with a church willing to leave its comfort for the sake of someone else's salvation.

So here's the call:

If you believe the church still matters—say *Amen*. If you believe lost people still matter—say *Amen*.
If you believe Jesus still sends His people—say *Amen*.

But don't stop at the sound. **Let the Church say Amen—out loud, out there, and on purpose.**