

A script from



“What is the Church?”

by
David J. Swanson

What

The church is what we build it to be. We are the church.

Themes: Church, Body of Christ, Worship, Purpose, Focus, Ministry

Who

Actor 1
Actor 2
Actor 3

When

Present

**Wear
(Props)**

Three folding chairs

Why

Ephesians 5:15-21, Ephesians 2:20, Matthew 18:16-20

How

This sketch is more like a monologue than a sketch. The three actors address the audience directly, first with questions, then with answers. It is an anthem, a call to arms, a manifesto.

Dramatically speaking, it works best if the first lines are played with a very low energy and slow pacing. This leaves the actors plenty of room to build the intensity as the sketch develops.

This sketch was performed by starting a worship song towards the end and then building into the song, so the band was already on stage, but in darkness, when the sketch started.

Time

Approximately 3-5 minutes

Two actors sit in folding chairs placed center stage at a 90 degree angle but facing away from each other. A third actor stands behind them. The three give an air of togetherness but disunity. They are pondering the same question but in different ways.

Lights up. Lights are simple, yet dramatic here and build later.

Actor 1: Is it true? What they say about the church? Is it true that the church is dying? Irrelevant?

Actor 2: Is it a bastion of intolerance like they say?

Actor 3: A house of hate? A place where holier-than-thou types go to feel superior?

Actor 1: A place of judgment? A place of guilt? Is it true? (*Beat*) If not, then what is the church?

Actor 2: (*Stands*) Is it a country club, designed to make sure we see our friends every week? A social group of politically similar, economically similar, skin-color similar that meet to pat each other on the back. Is that the church?

Actor 3: (*Stands*) Is it soaring gothic architecture? Stained glass? Pipe organs? Wide stages? Flashing lights? Pumping sound systems? Contemporary rock with vaguely Christian lyrics sung with arms raised because that looks good? Is that the church?

Actor 1: Is it indoctrination?

Actor 2: Supplication?

Actor 3: Self-adoration?

Actor 2: Endless salutations? (*Beat*) Is it?

Pause.

Actor 1: I am the church.

Actor 2 and Actor 3 overlapping.

Actor 2: I am the church.

Actor 3: I am the church.

A build in energy begins. Worship band starts to play the song that will build through the rest of the sketch.

Actor 1: When two or three are gathered in His name, we are the church.

Actor 2: When I show the love of Christ to my brothers and sisters, I am the church.

Actor 3: When I reach out to someone in need, I am the church.

Actor 1: (*Grabs chair, steps up on it during line*) We are the bricks of the church, laid side by side, built on the backs of the apostles, with Jesus Christ as our cornerstone. We are the church.

Lights change to echo the build in energy.

Actor 2: When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, singing psalms and hymns, making music to the Lord in our hearts, arms raised, voices crying out, we are the church!

These lines fall with no break between them, as if spoken with a single voice.

Actor 1: (*Intense*) I am the church!

Actor 2: I will not be a fool!

Actor 3: I will not be thoughtless!

Actor 1: I will not hate!

Actor 3: I will not posture and pretend!

Actor 2: I will not make church about me!

Actor 1: I will be real,

Actor 2: Be honest,

Actor 3: Be vulnerable.

Actor 1: I will be me.

Actor 2: We are the bride of Christ.

Actor 3: We are His people.

Actor 1: We are the church.

Band builds into song. Lights off on actors, up on band. Actors can either leave the stage or join in worship.