

3 WAYS THE CHURCH HAS FAILED MIDTOWN

News alert! The church isn't perfect. Far from it, in fact. For all the eclectic beauty of Midtown Memphis, there are still broken lives, lonely people, and significant needs. Being part of the "church" in Midtown, we own the various ways we've failed to love and serve the brokenness in Midtown Memphis.

1: WE FAILED TO EMBRACE THE DIVERSITY OF MIDTOWN.

Good News: We can all equally belong because we are all equally in need of Jesus.

We've lived segregated lives, particularly on Sundays. Weekly Gatherings see whites and blacks going separate ways in the south. Too often we've chosen to love and serve people with whom we feel comfortable. We've built safe programs for pretty people who appear to have their lives together. But Jesus calls the church in the south to serve the least of these. Too often we have failed to live in light of the truth we can all equally belong because we are all equally in need of Jesus.

2: WE FAILED TO BE AUTHENTIC.

Good News: We can all be honest about our brokenness because we find our perfection in Jesus.

The church has often shunned her responsibility to love and serve, choosing instead to blame, criticize or protest. Pretending like we are fine has led us to look down on those who are far from God instead of loving them. We've put up walls when we should have been tearing them down. We failed to find our perfection in Jesus and tried to fake it in other ways.

3: WE FAILED TO SERVE.

Good News: We don't have to look out primarily for ourselves because Jesus has already provided us with everything we need.

The church has frequently failed to reach outside of what feels comfortable. We spend time with people who are like us and appreciate the things we value. We've been scared to get our

hands dirty. We see the hurting people around us as someone else's problem. We failed to find Jesus as our everything and forgot our own poverty apart from his saving love.

Jesus is Good News for the churches and people of Midtown. Jesus is the hope for Midtown, not a particular church or organization. Mercy Hill Memphis is not the hope or hero. Jesus alone has the power to heal the church and bring joy, hope, healing, and life to Midtown.

We invite you come join in the life, love, family & friendship offered to us, and Midtown, in Jesus.

MERCY HILL CHURCH MEMPHIS