

We Fall Down

By Chris Tomlin

Please see print copy for words to music.

And I tell you
that you are Peter,
and on this rock
I will build my church....
Matthew 16:18a

Please see print copy for art work.



We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**

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Old Orchard Church
September 14, 2014 — 10:15 to 11:50 a.m.

Celebrating Peter's Great Confession: Christ—Son of the Living God

The Church is the company of all who believe,
Together with their children.
Yet singly we come,
One by one we bow
And confess with our own lips,
Think with our own mind,
Trust with our own heart:

“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!”

The church corporate, filled with the Spirit of God,
Is mighty in its prayers,
Fearless in its witness to Jesus Christ.
Praise the Lord that he gathers us together!
Praise God for the privilege of spurring each other on
To love and good deeds and faith!

But in the end, the power of the church,
The power of the many
In the hand of God,
Is nothing but the multiplied power of one—
That one who humbly says, **“I believe.”**



Scripture Reading

Old Testament Lesson: Jeremiah 33:14-18

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20

Sermon

“Trembling Under the Word of God or Manipulating It:
The Legalistic Misuse of Slave Texts”
from Isaiah 66; Jeremiah 34; Ephesians 6;
Colossians 3 & 4; Acts 17; Revelation 5

Ron Lutjens, lead pastor, preaching

Believing in Christ—And Thinking

Os Guinness, author and social critic, though no longer involved with L'Abri Fellowship, was deeply influenced by the ministry of Francis and Edith Schaeffer. He is a very thoughtful Christian many of us have learned from (and he happens to be the great-great grandson of Arthur Guinness, the Dublin brewer!!). Os wrote what's below 20 years ago, but it's all still relevant now—profoundly and pointedly relevant.

*Today, as we are reflecting on the importance of choosing to believe in Christ, **individually**, as Peter did, before we celebrate next week on our 33rd anniversary that the Lord has gathered us **corporately** into his church as believers, it's a good time to be reminded of this: It is just as important to **think**, in submission to God, as it is to **believe**, in submission to Jesus.*

—Ron Lutjens

The eighth step in reformation is to recover the practice of Christian apologetics, or of making a persuasive case for the Christian faith for today's generation....

...ironically, evangelicals now collude with liberals against traditional Christian apologetics. Whereas the broad liberal tendency of the past half century has been to say, “Don't defend, dialogue,” the broad conservative tendency has been to say, “Don't persuade, proclaim.” As philosopher Antony Flew lamented a generation ago, “Belief cannot argue with unbelief: It can only preach to it.”...

The present moment is truly the hour for authentic Christian apologetics. On the one hand, the outlook in some directions is sobering. As evangelical churches grow careless about orthodoxy, instances of heresy, blasphemy, and nonsense are mounting. As modern society grows increasingly secular in some spheres of life and pluralistic in others, powerful alternatives to the gospel are proliferating. Similarly, as modern life calls into question more and more of what it means to be fundamentally human—including such requirements as personal identity, truth, and stable families—society's questions and crises mount year by year. On the other hand, the outlook in other directions is encouraging. If the church is in disarray, the church's opponents are in even greater disarray. Pre-Christian rivals to the gospel, such as full-blooded, old-fashioned paganism, may be somewhat resurgent. But the post-Christian rivals to the gospel—such as humanism and secularism, not to mention Marxism and Freudianism—are at a lower ebb than at any time in the past four hundred years.

The time has come for evangelicals to wake from our lethargy or turn from our fear, blaming, and victim-playing. We must move out into all spheres of society, presenting the case for the gospel of Jesus in ways that are fresh, powerful, imaginative, compassionate, and persuasive. A sure sign of a genuine reformation of our appalling anti-intellectualism will be the rise of a new generation of Christian apologists.

—Os Guinness in Fit Bodies, Fat Minds: Why Evangelicals Don't Think and What to Do About It (1994)