

WHAT DID GOD ASK US TO DO?

God did not ask us to join a church, denomination, or organization, but to trust in the redemptive work of His son Jesus, follow Him, and lift Him up before the world.

FOLLOWING JESUS (THE JESUS TEAM)

Jesus said, *"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."* Matthew 4:19

Several years ago I stood on a high bluff overlooking the Arabian Sea in South India. As I watched, a whole village worked together to pull in a net of fish. Some were in boats. Some were in the surf. Some were on the shore. All were working together as a team to bring in this huge net of fish. From the scriptures we know this is the type of fishing Jesus was talking about.

Catching large amounts of fish takes teamwork. The Church, the Body of Christ, is the team God commissioned to catch the harvest of souls He wants for His Kingdom. Jesus is the team captain. It is not an organization, but a living organism guided by His Spirit. He has gifted some people as equippers who are to train the team how to work together to bring in the harvest. Their purpose is to encourage, instruct, correct, and if necessary rebuke the team members so they will learn to keep their eyes on Jesus and fulfill His purpose for them as part of the team. These equippers are to be a living example of what it means to wholeheartedly follow Christ. They are not to control, but to serve the team so it will follow the directions of the captain, Jesus.

God is looking for people who will truly follow Jesus, learn to function as part of His team, and bring in the harvest. May God grant grace to each one of us to be part of that team.