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Presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them over 40 days . . . **(Acts 1:3)**

2. How do we mentor and/or disciple others? What does it look like?

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**LOVE + TRUTH over TIME
with another person.**

3. Is official church membership biblical?

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They were *devoted* to a local congregation.

Genuine ongoing spiritual growth is impossible without that kind of commitment.

4. When is it okay (or not) to join with other denominations that may teach unbiblical doctrine for joint services, outreach events, or causes?

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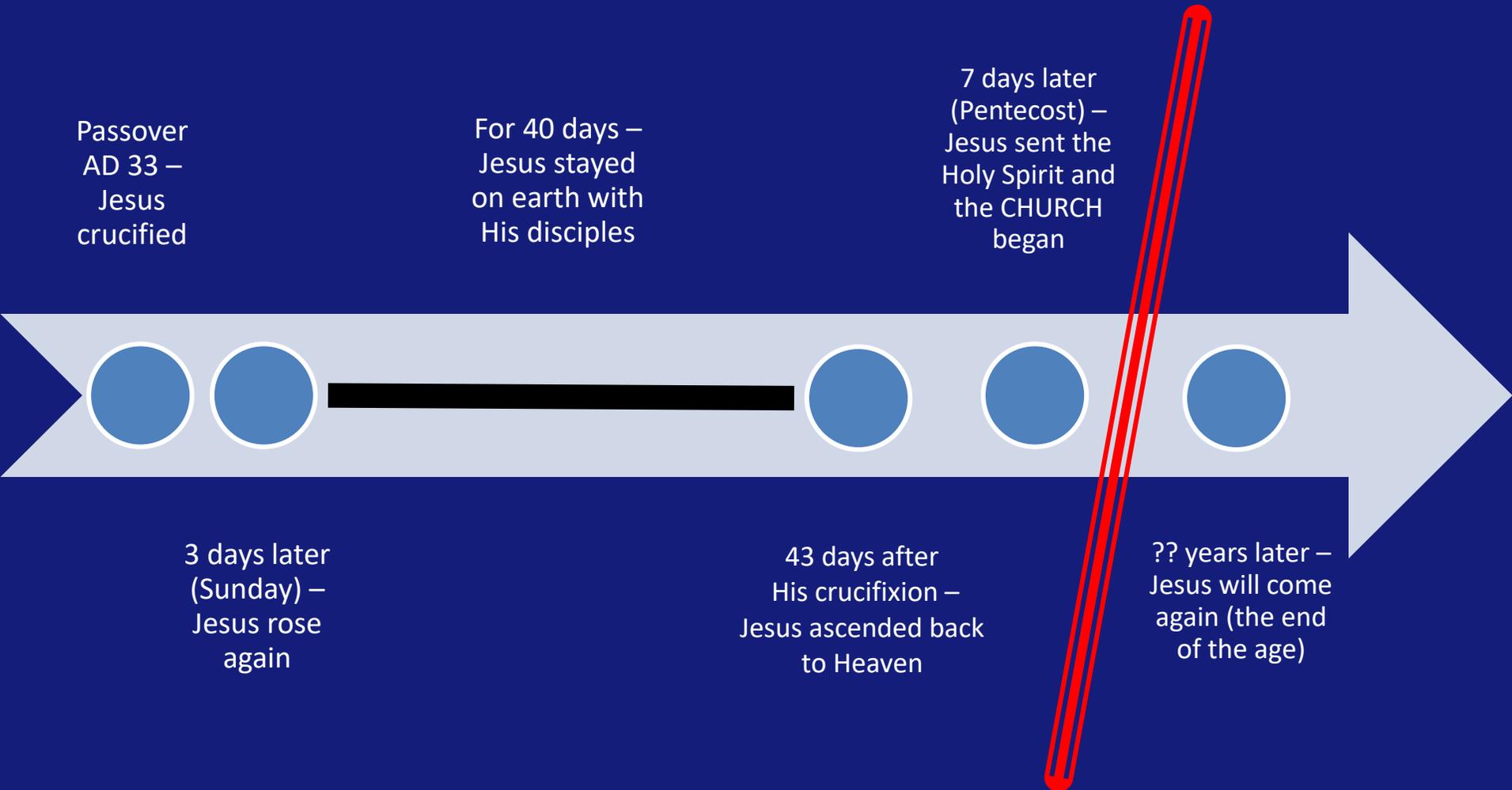
FULL ALIGNMENT (we agree on everything)

VS

COMMON CAUSE (we align on this need)

PEOPLE FOR OUR MISSION - LEADERS

*Jesus intends gifted
leaders to equip every
believer for His mission.*



Ephesians 4:7-10

⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive and gave gifts to men."

Ephesians 4:7-10

⁹ (Now this, “He ascended” – what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

Ephesians 4:11-12

¹¹ And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11

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**1. In the New Testament,
“pastor”, “elder”, “overseer”
refer to the same role.**

1 Peter 5:1-2

¹ The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: ² Shepherd [“pastor”] the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly.

2. Local church leaders are most often called “elders” in the early church.

3. Each local church was led by a group of elders, though based on spiritual gifts, experience, and God's leading some excelled in teaching or leading.

4. Deacons and deaconesses (men and women) supported the leadership of the elders as “recognized servants” in the church.

Ephesians 4:11-13

¹¹ So Christ Himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip His people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Ephesians 4:12

To equip His people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up.

***Jesus intends gifted leaders to
equip every believer for His
mission of making disciples.***

2 Timothy 4:1-2

¹ I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: ² Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

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- **Appreciate and encourage them.**
- **Search the Scriptures with us and talk with us about what God is teaching you.**
- **Respond to our efforts to train you to take part in Jesus' mission.**
- **Aspire to serve as an elder or deacon / deaconess of our church.**

