



Wednesday, September 21, 2022

WOW – A Word on Wednesday!!
THE CHARACTER OF THE CHURCH
“From Hurting to Healthy”

Introduction: Last week we discussed ‘the hurting church’ and how to deal with ‘church hurt’. Tonight we will take a look into moving from a Hurting to a Healthy church! A healthy church will reflect the character of Jesus Christ. Let’s look at the characteristics of a Healthy Church!

1. A Healthy Church is Distinct from the World

- a. Greek word that means ‘called out ones’
- b. Through the Gospel, God had His people called-out of this world to be distinct and distant from:
 - The world’s values, morals, and goals
 - We are separated from the world because we have God’s truth
- c. The world has relative moral standards that shift with the times.
- d. Why do the Church Saints believe in the morals taught in the ancient book, the Bible? Answer – we believe it because Jesus believed it and God’s Word is truth!

2 Thessalonians 1:1

1 Peter 1:16

John 17:14-17

Hebrews 12:14

Romans 3:4

2. A Healthy Church is Bathed in the Beauty of Grace and Peace of the Gospel

- a. Paul extends grace and peace to this new Church.
- b. Grace is God’s unmerited favor, shown to us through the death of Jesus Christ on our behalf.
- c. Grace is a free gift to those who deserve His wrath.
- d. Peace refers to total well-being, but especially to our spiritual well-being.
- e. His shed blood paid the penalty for our sins so that we are now at peace with God.
- f. It also broke down all barriers between us and other people, no matter their ethnicity, we can have peace with one another!
- g. The Church must display God’s peace within the doors and outside of its walls.

2 Thessalonians 1:1-2

James 4:6

John 1:16

Ephesians 2:8-9

Colossians 3:6

John 16:33

Ephesians 2:14

Numbers 6:24,26

Matthew 5:9

3. A Healthy Church is Faith in Action and Loves One Another

- a. Paul has a unique emphasis here when he says “we ought always to give thanks and adds that such is only fitting.
 - “Ought” means we are under obligation, but to what?
To thank God because clearly He’s behind our growth.
- b. We come to God through initial faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior.
- c. But such faith is not a one time event, where we believe and it’s over with.
- d. The difficult news is that some faith grows through trials.
- e. Our faith grows as we see the sufficiency of His ‘precious and magnificent promises’.
- f. Both faith and love is often coupled together in Paul’s letters.

2 Thessalonians 1:3

Romans 10:17

Matthew 8:26

Matthew 16:8

2 Peter 1:4

1 Timothy 1:5

1 Corinthians 13:2

Colossians 1:4

4. A Healthy Church Perseveres in Faith through Difficult Trials

- a. Persevering in faith in the midst of difficult trials is not automatic!
- b. Trials test the genuineness of our faith.
- c. We must put deep roots in the Word when times are easy, so we will not wither in times of trouble.

2 Thessalonians 1:4

James 1:2-3

2 Corinthians 1:8-10

1 Peter 1:6-7

5. A Healthy Church Views Its Sufferings in the Light of God’s Kingdom

- a. When we go through severe trials, we tend to think that God has forsaken us and that He is not working His plan.
- b. Paul says – quite the contrary! God wants us to understand that suffering is often the means God uses to work out His external purpose and prepares us for His kingdom!
- c. We often allow gossip, slander, and anger to be overlooked and rationalized in our churches.
- d. We might even legitimize the lies on our own members.
- e. We might forget that God gives us a choice in how we deal with matters.
- f. God speaks harshly about the one who promotes division.

2 Thessalonians 1:5

1 Peter 3:15

Matthew 24:44

Psalms 15:2-3

Proverbs 11:13

Galatians 6:1

Titus 3:10
