

QUESTION 35: I AM ON TRANSFER TO ANOTHER CITY AND 'AM GOING TO NEED A NEW HOME CHURCH. WHAT ARE THE THINGS I SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR AS INDICATORS OF A GOOD CHURCH?

ANSWER :

Your thinking ahead is very impressive. To me it shows that you are a believer operating at a good standard who understands the importance of continuous fellowship. No question, it is not profitable for a believer to risk forsaking the assembly of the body (Heb.10:25). Planning ahead dwarfs such risk.

Jesus our savior came to earth spending the last three and half of his thirty three and half years total to lay the foundation of a church that will parent believers redeemed from all tongues and nations. He gathered principally the 12 disciples (apostles) and imparted them with patriarchal grace thus becoming the pillars on which the church is structured (Eph.2:20). The undertone is that a church must be constructed and situated where those who become a part will function as a unit. Paul would describe this unit as a body (1Cor.12:12). In this parlance there is no room for separation or unwarranted detachment and this is the beauty of your thinking.

Basically therefore, we will present the characteristics of a good church, and in the language of a Rev. Eddie Ball it

has to be a church that Christ built, with all essential divine attributes attached.

First, a good Christian church must offer salvation to people. Come to think of it, that was why God (the owner) sent his only begotten son – Jesus, (the head of the church as a body unit) to die that mankind lost in sin via the miscue of Adam and Eve might be reconciled to God(1Cor.15:22, 2Cor.5:18). Through the blood shed at Calvary, the sins of all who believe and come to repentance are remitted and we become children of God born into a new family of God (the church) headed by Christ. It is that clear.

Therefore a church good is Christ and gospel centered. It must be able to clearly and boldly pronounce that except a man be born again , he cannot see the kingdom of God and that not believing Christ sends a man to hell when the physical life is over(John 3:18, Rev.21:8). That believing with the heart and confessing with the mouth gives a man salvation (Rom.10:10). Regardless of size, beauty, location, a true and a real church must be able to articulate redemption of souls in simple clear terms. As people come, they must be given the opportunity of integrating with Christ. There cannot be a more needed foundation for a church that truly belongs to God and practically headed by Christ. This can only be a bible believing and taught church.

Second, a good church must be able to facilitate the spiritual growth of a believer. Take an analogy for instance in the natural: whenever a child is born or a plant sprouts from the ground, growth is naturally next. Similarly

whenever a person comes to Christ, God expects growth (1Pet.2:2) and a truth church makes room for Christian growth and discipleship. The elderly believers and leaders must be on hand to teach, lead and mentor those who are newly coming in or just getting born again(2Tim.2:2, Tit.2:1-8). The newly born must be baptized (Mk. 16:16) and shown the path to grow and daily mature in Christ.

Third, a good church must make room for and encourage worship of God because that was the original purpose of creation (Rev.4:11). God created man so that we may relate as father and children, fellowship together and show forth his praise. That is what gives God pleasure. It is good to know that worship opens up and lubricates intimate fellowship with God. This is very vital for an ongoing believer because the more intimate we are with God, the less we experience intrusion from the enemy of our souls. It is possible to be devoted to two people. Jesus reminds us that we can't serve two masters (Matt.6:24). A life focusing on God pays less attention to the world. Worship helps to focus on the right person, God. He is our maker, redeemer, up keeper and the one we will ultimately return to live with eternally in glory. No one but him is exclusively deserving of our worship.

Fifthly, a good church must be a praying church. Prayer which simply means calling on God for help is vitally needed for a victorious life especially in this time and age. God instructs us to pray ceaselessly (1Thes.5:17). Prayer thus is an empowering machine of progress by which oppositions, hindrances and distractions to our wellbeing

are constantly neutralized. Being hooked on prayer is indicative of our reliance on God for help. Interestingly, he desires that.

For all your questions feel free to contact us at:

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