

THOUGHTS ON THE ETERNAL KINGDOM

Let's Be The Church

What is The Church? The Church is not found in a particular place, but in the hearts of those who love Jesus and are seeking to do His will. God adds to The Church every day those who have repented of their sins, desire to have their heart changed and have asked Jesus to become their Lord and Savior. Have you repented of your sins? Do you want God to change your heart? Have you trusted in the redeeming work of Jesus on The Cross as the only way to God, and asked Him to be your Lord and Savior? If you have, then you are part of The Church.¹

In order to be The Church we must seek to walk in fellowship with all those who love Jesus. We must not allow our differences to divide us. The Apostle Paul said allowing differences to divide us is carnality. Instead we must seek to be in unity with everyone God has added to The Church.²

As we seek to come into unity, God will show us how we can work together to reach the hearts of the people around us who don't know Jesus. Who are the people in your neighborhood, community or village who know Jesus? Reach out to them. Seek to know their heart. Pray for them. Minister to their needs as you have opportunity. Ask God to show you how you can minister with them to reach those who don't know Jesus.³

The Church is the world's only hope. As we've said The Church is not found in a particular place or organization, but in the people who have surrendered their hearts and wills to Jesus, and are living to serve Him. God is calling His people to rise up as one body. Only then will they have the power they need to change the world.

We need to realize that whenever two or more of us are together Jesus is there in His Church to do the things He wants done on the earth. When we acknowledge Him and His purpose in our lives He will work through us to touch the hearts of people. At our request He will do whatever it takes for this to happen. This is the life God wants His Church to live. It begins with seeing The Church the way God sees it; seeing the family of believers and its purpose. That purpose is to touch people's hearts with the love of Jesus. Love, that's what Jesus said would define His followers. As we love each other the world knows we belong to Jesus. As we show love to those who are unlovely we overcome the evil in the world. This should lead us to minister to all people especially those who are part of the family of God. It should influence us to seek opportunities to be salt and light by praying for people, sharing an encouraging word, or ministering to needs when we're able.⁴

When we see the power that comes from Jesus through His Church, when we seek to live in unity, then we will want to get together regularly with fellow believers to stir up love and good works in each other. We will do more than attend a "church meeting" on Sunday to fulfill our religious duty. We will spend

time each day with fellow believers in our family sharing and praying for one another. We'll get together regularly with other believers where we work, in our neighborhood, or where we go to school to share, and pray for each other and the needs around us. If we are a leader, we will get together with other leaders for fellowship and prayer. Living to show the love of Jesus will be part of our daily life. If we do this, His Church will be the salt and light Jesus intended it to be.⁵

Let's be the church. Let's seek to know the people in our neighborhood, community, or village who acknowledge Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Let's get together regularly with other followers of Jesus where we work, in our neighborhood or where we go to school, and pray for each other and the needs around us. If we are a leader, let's get together with other leaders for fellowship and prayer. As we do this, God will manifest His power and love through His church. We will be the salt and light God wants us to be in this world. It is the World's only hope.

QUESTION: Are you being what God wants His Church to be?

Scripture references: ¹ Matthew 12:50; Acts 2:47, 3:19; Romans 10:9-10

² 1 John 1:1-7; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 3:1-4

³ Ephesians 4:1-16

⁴ Matthew 18:18-19, 5:44; John 13:35; Romans 12:9-21;

¹ John 3:18

⁵ Hebrews 10:23-25

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As God leads share this message with someone.

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