

BASIC MESSAGE

July 17, 2004

THE CHURCH IS A PEOPLE NOT A PLACE

The Church is a people not a place. It is a family made up of all those who follow Jesus by faith. Matthew 18 makes it clear that whenever 2 or more members of The Family gather in Jesus name The Church is there in power. Jesus says He is present in a special way, and because He is, The Church has the power to make things happen. They can stop them or set them in motion.

Hebrews 10:24-25 tells us that the closer we come to Jesus return the more we should get together. There are more things to deal with so more needs to be done. Today much of The Church has substituted meeting in a building for meeting in power. Often there is no power because the meeting is only tacitly held in Jesus name, but is really held in the name of an organization or division. It must make Christ really sad when we attend a meeting on Sunday then ignore His family and the needs of those around us in our daily lives. The failure of His people to show His love for one another makes it hard for the world to see The Church. It makes it difficult for The Church to be the salt and light He intended it to be.

We must realize that whenever two 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 He will work through us to establish His Kingdom in the hearts of people. At our request He will do what ever it takes for this to happen.

This is the life God wants His Church to live. It begins with seeing The Church the way He sees it. Seeing the family of believers and its purpose. That purpose is to establish God's Kingdom in peoples' hearts. This should lead us to minister to all people especially those who are part of the family of God. It should cause 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.

When we see the power that comes from Jesus through His Church 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 out The Gospel will be part of our daily life. His Church will be the salt and light Jesus intended to be.

THE WORLD NEEDS THE CHURCH TO BE
THE POWERFUL FAMILY GOD CALLED US TO BE!!!!

BASIC Question:

Are you living as if The Church is a people not a place?

If you would like to know more about how to be The Church,
please contact us.

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Luke 8:5-15