

A CARING CHURCH

Revelation 3:1-3

Introduction: The number one problem of the church today is that it is preoccupied with itself. 75% of Americans polled (a few years ago) said that most churches don't really help or care anymore. Neither God nor His Gospel has changed, so who, what has changed? It has to be the church.

What about our church? Do you want to be a part of a caring church? Is our church a caring church or are we more interested in just keeping things as they are? Our church should be a caring church and there are some things that never should be said about our church:

I. A CARING CHURCH BUT NOT A CAREFUL CHURCH

1. We have heard this before, "We've never done it that way before.." Someone said that these are the words of a dying church. Is this our "motto?" "Wait a minute, we've never done it that way before?" If so, we need to get away from this attitude.
2. Think for a moment, how did this church come to be? Who started it? Why did they start it? What did they have to do to get it started? Was their attitude the same as ours today? If the founders of this church had the same attitude as ours, would this church ever have become what it is today?
3. Do you want to be a member of a church that is not willing to take risks on the character of God? Many churches are afraid to step out on the promises of God in obedience to His commands.

II. A CARING CHURCH BUT NOT A CARE-BOUND CHURCH

1. It is true that we are a family and family comes first, BUT we never want to become so focused on our present family that we never look beyond ourselves and obey the command to "go."
2. Look around, look even into your own families, there are countless people we know who are not a part of our church family or anybody's church. Jesus commanded us to go find them, tell them about Him, and when they believed, to baptize them and then to teach them.
3. Any church that keeps it's eyes only on itself, caring about nobody else but it's own members will become stagnant, useless in the kingdom of God and eventually just die. We must always be reaching out first to our own community and then to the rest of the world. If we don't, we will be useless for our Lord.

III. A CARING CHURCH BUT NOT A CARELESS CHURCH

1. We should never want anybody to say that our church is a careless church, one that is wasteful, one that does this and that but only for itself and not for anybody else, not giving thought to what it is doing. Jumping into this program and that program just because it works somewhere else, it will work here as well.

2. Anything we do, or try to do, or think about doing, ought to be after much thought and prayer. Then when we believe it is what God wants of us, we should give all we have and the very best that we can do without question or hesitation.
3. Anytime a church or any Christian does it's/his/her best with what they have the way God wants it, God will always reward and give something even greater to do for Him.
4. We must remember that anything God wants us to be doing for Him, He will be providing what we need to do what He wants. He will never leave us on our own.

IV. A CARING CHURCH BUT NOT A CAREFREE CHURCH

1. We don't want to be called a "carefree" church. A church that does only what it wants to do and only the way that it wants to do, never planning anything, just jumping up and doing whatever.
2. How are we doing at reaching our community with the Gospel? How are we doing as a church in doing as Jesus did? How are we doing in knowing the joy of Jesus?

CONCLUSION:

1. Our church is one of countless churches but we are all ONE in the Lord Jesus. The Church is the bride of Jesus Christ, the Church is the Family of God. We are not alone. We are not the only church in the world.
2. As part of the Family of God, then we must act like we are part of a family, not some individual separate, private group.
3. If Jesus cared for others, we are to care for others. If Jesus obeyed His Heavenly Father, then we must obey Him also. If Jesus forgave others, then we must also forgive others. In other words, we must be the image of Jesus Christ as exactly as we possibly can. How are we doing?