

MARKS OF AN EFFECTIVE CHURCH

Matthew 16:15-18

Introduction: If asked what kind of Church is a great, active, good Church of today, no doubt it would be a Church with a high attendance, a large income, a big staff, one that has a school, lots of programs, a big choir, lots of beautiful buildings, etc. However, God doesn't use the same qualifications as people. Just what is God looking for in His Church? What are the marks of an effective Church?

I. THERE WOULD BE GODLY LEADERSHIP

1. *Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 3:1-7*
2. There would be high standards, qualifications, yet scriptural.
3. The leadership would be by example.

II. THERE WOULD BE BIBLICAL GOALS

1. The primary goals would be worship, fellowship, spiritual growth and evangelism.
2. The specific goals would be strengthening families, biblical counseling, childhood education.
3. Then ministries that promoted the primary goals.

III. THERE WOULD BE DISCIPLESHIP

1. *Ephesians 4:11-12*
2. Every member would minister in some way.
3. There would be spiritual development by applying scripture to daily living.
4. Every level of Christian life would be approached in discipleship.

IV. THERE WOULD BE OUTREACH

1. *Acts 5:28; 17:6*
2. It would not be by bumper stickers in the Greek fish sign, etc.
3. It would be personal, one on one contact where the lost are.
4. The Church is Jesus' means of building His Kingdom.

V. THERE WOULD BE CONCERN FOR ONE ANOTHER

1. *Hebrews 10:24-25*
2. The Church is not a theater where people just sit and be entertained.
3. The Church is to be a caring, sensitive, loving body of people.
4. The Church is to conform to the image of Jesus Christ and not the world or anything else.

VI. THERE WOULD BE A COMMITMENT TO THE FAMILY

1. Satan and the world have scattered the family. Describe - divorces, gangs, abortion, etc..
2. Few families survive today's crisis.
3. Strong families are the Church's backbone.

VII. THERE WOULD BE BIBLICAL TEACHING AND PREACHING

1. No Church can remain healthy very long without a strong pulpit and classroom of God's Word.
2. God's Truth would be upheld, not gimmicks, no compromise, God' s Word straight.

VIII. THERE WOULD BE A WILLINGNESS TO CHANGE

1. Inflexibility kills Churches.
2. There would be willingness to adapt, try new things, but NEVER compromise God's message or the primary goals.

IX. THERE WOULD BE REAL, TRUE WORSHIP

1. The highest priority of the Church is to focus on God, NOT people!
2. Everything will fall into its proper place when God and His Word comes first.

CONCLUSION:

1. Is your Church like the one just described? What changes does your Church need to make?
2. Most Churches of today are not "healthy" or effective for the emphasis is on the wrong things.
3. Do you want your Church to be an Effective Church? A Church where God comes First?