

CHARACTERISTICS OF A GODLY CHURCH

Ep 5: 25 - 27

Acts 2:37 – 47

(First Message as Pastor)

- I. A Godly Church responds to the preaching of God’s Word. “What shall we do?” They allowed God to touch their deepest places even though the message was hard (vs 23). So often we are “cut to the heart” (7:54) when we don’t allow the Holy Spirit to control our minds, and actions. God wants us to have a “broken and contrite heart” **Psalm 51:17**
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.
- II. A Godly Church encourages the lost to make the right decisions (vs 38 – 40). It’s not just about getting together to sing some songs, take an offering and hear 3 points and in invitation. Sinners must be brought to the point of making the decision.
- III. A Godly Church removes itself from the “untoward” generation (vs 40). Greek word for untoward is the root we get “scoliosis” from and means “crooked”. (vs 40).
- IV. A Godly Church “gladly” receives God’s word (vs 41). King Herod heard the word gladly, **Mark 6:20 For Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just man and an holy, and observed him; and when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly.** but the Church “gladly received it” and did something with it. They responded and were baptized. Do we “hear God’s Word” or do we “receive God’s Word” and appropriately respond?
- V. A Godly Church is consistent (vs 42):
 - a. In preaching the Word (KJV)
 - b. In fellowshiping with each other
 - c. In maintaining the church ordinances
 - d. In praying
- VI. A Godly Church has a reverential fear of a righteous and holy God. (vs 43)
- VII. A Godly Church has commonality: a love for our Saviour (vs 44)
 - a. Is our love a true, sincere, passionate love for the One who gave His life for the Church? Or is it like the 25 priests in EZ 8:16?
 - b. Rev 2:4. We must not leave our “First Love”.
- VIII. A Godly Church cares for one another (vs 45)
- IX. A Godly Church works together, continually, with gladness, as one. (vs 46)
 - a. Giving
 - b. Going

Olde Tyme Baptist Church

- i. Get into “performing” and not continually “reforming”
 - ii. **James 1:22: “Be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”**
 - c. Discipleship
 - i. It takes time (like lighting the pilot light)
 - d. Activities
 - e. Taking care of the physical building
 - f. Nursery
 - g. Praying
- X. A Godly Church praises a loving God (vs 47a)
- XI. A Godly Church has credibility with all people (vs 47a)
- XII. A Godly Church grows.
 - a. On the day of Pentecost: **Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.**
 - b. Daily: **Acts 2:47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.**
 - c. After Pentecost: **Acts 4:4 Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.**
 - d. Steady Growth: **Acts 5:14 And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)**
 - e. In Antioch: **Acts 11:21 And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.**
- XIII. A Godly Church will suffer persecution.
 - a. **Acts 8:1 And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.**
- XIV. A Godly Church never quits.
 - a. We may doubt, but we cannot give up.
 - i. **Romans 8:35-39 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**
 - ii. **2 Corinthians 4:8-10 We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.**
 - b. We must stick to the plan

- i. Habakkuk 2:1-4 I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved. And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.
- ii. Galatians 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

XV. A Godly Church is the only place a Christian can properly serve God.

- a. Heb 10:25
- b. It's the only place you can scripturally give
 - i. Nehemiah 10:38 And the priest the son of Aaron shall be with the Levites, when the Levites take tithes: and the Levites shall bring up the tithe of the tithes unto the house of our God, to the chambers, into the treasure house.
 - ii. Malachi 3:8-10 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.
- c. Christ set the example: Luke 4:16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.
- d. The Apostles continued: Luke 24:52-53 And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.
- e. It's a place of refuge: Isaiah 37:1 And it came to pass, when king Hezekiah heard it, that he rent his clothes, and covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the LORD.
- f. God commands it: Deuteronomy 12:5 But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, even unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come: