

Is the Church Really That Important?

2 Corinthians 2:12-16 & 7:5-10

The Church Matters Because...

- It is more _____ to the work of Christ than any _____ ministry.
- It represents true _____.
- We are the _____ representing Christ.

FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

1. In ministry and in the church, who do you consider to be the most important audience you serve? Why? 1 Corinthians 9:19-23.
2. Read 2 Corinthians 2:12-13. Many feel that Paul leaving Troas was weakness in him. Do you see this as a weakness? Why or why not? Read also 2 Corinthians 7:5-10.
3. If you had a thriving individual ministry and it was obvious God had given you an open door, is it necessary to still be firmly connected to the local church? What should your response be to your ministry if you heard some of your church body was struggling with sin? Romans 12:3-5.
4. 2 Corinthians 7:9-10 speaks of godly grief. What is it and what does repentance from godly grief look like? If we have a godly grief, what should our response be to someone who confronts our sin? Why?
5. Does godly grief that leads us to repentance mean that we are now free from that sin? Do repetitive sins mean we have never really repented? How should the church respond to repeat offenders?
6. In 2 Corinthians 2:14 Paul refers to a triumphal procession. What is the metaphor referring to? How does it relate to the church? How does this verse tell the church how to be the aroma of Christ everywhere?
7. In verse 15 and 16, it's obvious to most we need to be the fragrance of Christ to those who are perishing and to those who are dead heading for eternal death. But why are we to be a fragrance of Christ to those being saved and are now alive in Christ headed for eternal life?

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Randy Shultz



OUR
Weakness,
GOD'S
Strength

"I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now. . . . Come further up, come further in!" — C.S. Lewis, *The Last Battle*