

2 The Churches Makeup

Series: What is The Church?

January 14 2018

Philippians 2:1-2

When Veanna and I lived in Gumberry North Carolina... "Turn Right when you get to The White Church."

When you hear the word Church, what comes to mind?

As we discussed last week the Church is not a Structure or a Place. The church is The Makeup of People who have placed their trust in Gods Son who is Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2:1-2 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy,² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

Paul shares with us The Makeup for being a True Follower of Jesus Christ.

The Church is a gathering of people who have placed their Faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. That have Identified themselves publicly through Believers Baptism.

A True Follower of Jesus Christ will develop Christ Like Characteristics to instill Joy within Church Life.

So what should a Churches Makeup look like?

Follow along this morning as we walk through the **Four Essential Characteristics** of a Healthy Church Fellowship!

I. **A Healthy Church Makeup** Includes a Church full of **Encouragers**. **(1a)** So if there is any **encouragement** in Christ

The Truth that All Believers are “**In Christ**” should encourage you! When you are in Christ you are safe and secure in all circumstances! The term “In Christ” reminds me of my own Personal Testimony and how far Jesus has taken me from where I started.

Have you ever thought about that? Where you started as opposed to **where you are now!** If you are truly a believer in Jesus Christ there should be a huge difference in your life, your actions, your reactions to adversity, where you are will or unwilling to go, what you are unwilling to say, unwilling to do.

The change in you should **Effect your Relationship** with your parents, teachers, bosses, co-workers, friends, spouses.

If there is little or **no change** in your life, lifestyle perhaps there are some things you need to change in your life.

- Cut out or fix a **Bad Relationship**.
- **Stop hanging** around **Bad Influences!**
- **Stop copying** **Bad Behavior!**

Having a closer relationship with Jesus will give you a **clear conscience**. Having a clear conscience is encouraging and allows you to become an **Encouragement** as well as a Positive Influence to others around you.

II. **A Healthy Church Makeup** Includes a Church full of **Comforters (1b)** So if there is... any **comfort** from love

Comfort here means to “Draw someone near in times of distress.” And this can only be done through an outpouring of God’s Love!

Love here is Agape Love. The kind of Love that **does for others** without any thought of receiving anything in return!

Are you going through a **Difficult time right now?**

That may be God **teaching you** to become a comforter from His Love! **2 Corinthians 1:3-4** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the **Father of mercies** and **God of all comfort**,⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction, so that **we may be able to comfort** those who are **in any** affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

That is how you can **Rejoice** in your affliction. It is a **Time of Preparation**.

III. **A Healthy Church Makeup** Includes a Church full of **Participants (1c)** So if there is...any **participation** in the Spirit

Participation = the word koinonia which means fellowship, association, community, communion, joint participation.

The Philippians **common experience** with The Spirit of God had bound them together to work in unity or Participate in the ministry so as to complete the task God had prepared for them.

Just as our common experience with The Spirit of God has bound us together to **work in unity** so as to complete the task God has prepared for us here at Gateway Baptist Church!

As we participate together we must remember that The Holy Spirit has **Baptized us into One Body!**

IV. A Healthy Church Makeup Includes a Church full of **Compassion** (1-2) So if there is... any **affection** and **sympathy**

Compassion is at the Core of Jesus Christ! And I'm convinced is one of the **main ingredients** missing from the Church in America today!

Matthew 9:36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

- **Compassion** is developed while **Doing Ministry** Together!
- **Compassion** is developed while **Doing Mission Trips** Together!

- **Compassion** is developed while on a Men's or Women's Retreat/Conference Together!
- **Compassion** is developed While Doing Church Together!

Compassion is to be moved as to one's bowels, hence to be moved with compassion, for the bowels were thought to be the seat of love! "Sick at Heart"

Compassion is a By-Product of Love!

How then does Each Individual Member become an Encourager, a Comforter, a Participant, and Full of Compassion?

V. **Each Individual Member** pursues and becomes Christ-Like (2) complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

Believers have a Oneness with each other and with Jesus Christ.

In **Ephesians 4:4-6** Paul tells us there are Seven Ones that connected us with one another and with Christ!

Ephesians 4:4-6 There is one body and one Spirit-- just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call-- ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

What do you need to do to become Christ-Like?

Praise Team Takes The Platform