

## How to Recognize the Church

April 26, 2015 AM

### THE ACTIVITY OF THE CHURCH:

- **WORD OF GOD / DOCTRINE**  
*"...they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ." Acts 5:42*
- **CORPORATE WORSHIP / PRAYER**  
*"when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together..." Acts 4:31*
- **EVANGELISM**  
*"...knowing the terror of the Lord, we persuade men..." 2 Cor 5:11*
- **DISCIPLESHIP**  
*"Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations..." Matt 28:19*
- **FELLOWSHIP**  
*"...encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." Heb 10:25*
- **CHARITY / BENEVOLENCE**  
*"But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" 1 John 3:17*

### [EVANGELISM - DISCIPLESHIP]

#### **Acts 2:37-47**

37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

### [DOCTRINE - FELLOWSHIP - CORPORATE PRAYER]

#### **Acts 2:37-47**

42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

**[CHARITY / BENEVOLENCE]**

**Acts 2:37-47**

45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

**THE CULTURE OF THE CHURCH**  
*(characteristics of the community)*

- SUPERNATURAL POWER
- LOVE
- EDIFICATION / ENCOURAGEMENT
- PATIENT EXPECTATION AND WAITING
- PURITY OF DOCTRINE
- PURITY OF CHARACTER AND LIFESTYLE

**CULTURE: SUPERNATURAL POWER**

*-- to take the supernatural out of the Church is to make the Church no longer the Church --*

**Mark 16:15-18**

15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

**17 AND THESE SIGNS SHALL FOLLOW THEM THAT BELIEVE; IN MY NAME SHALL THEY CAST OUT DEVILS; THEY SHALL SPEAK WITH NEW TONGUES;**

**18 THEY SHALL TAKE UP SERPENTS; AND IF THEY DRINK ANY DEADLY THING, IT SHALL NOT HURT THEM; THEY SHALL LAY HANDS ON THE SICK, AND THEY SHALL RECOVER.**

**Acts 2:1-13**

**1 AND WHEN THE DAY OF PENTECOST WAS FULLY COME, THEY WERE ALL WITH ONE ACCORD IN ONE PLACE.**

**2 AND SUDDENLY THERE CAME A SOUND FROM HEAVEN AS OF A RUSHING MIGHTY WIND, AND IT FILLED ALL THE HOUSE WHERE THEY WERE SITTING.**

**3 AND THERE APPEARED UNTO THEM CLOVEN TONGUES LIKE AS OF FIRE, AND IT SAT UPON EACH OF THEM.**

**4 AND THEY WERE ALL FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST, AND BEGAN TO SPEAK WITH OTHER TONGUES, AS THE SPIRIT GAVE THEM UTTERANCE.**

5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

**CULTURE: LOVE**

*-- love is the one undisputed, undeniable, universal sign which identifies the Church to the world..*

### John 13:34-35

34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

35 **BY THIS SHALL ALL MEN KNOW THAT YE ARE MY DISCIPLES, IF YE HAVE LOVE ONE TO ANOTHER.**

### Ephesians 4:1-3

1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

2 **With all LOWLINESS (modesty, humility, a deep sense of one's littleness) and MEEKNESS (gentleness, mildness), with LONGSUFFERING (patience, endurance, slowness in avenging wrongs) FORBEARING ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE;**

3 **ENDEAVOURING (use speed, give diligence, exert oneself) TO KEEP THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT IN THE BOND (that which bands together) OF PEACE.**

### CULTURE: EDIFICATION / ENCOURAGEMENT

-- if there is one place you can turn to find hope, support, comfort, encouragement, strength - it is the Church --

### Hebrews 10:23-26

23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

24 And let us **CONSIDER (fix one's attention on, observe attentively) ONE ANOTHER TO PROVOKE (incite) UNTO LOVE AND TO GOOD WORKS:**

25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but **EXHORTING (call near, encourage, console, comfort, strengthen) ONE ANOTHER: and **SO MUCH THE MORE, AS YE SEE THE DAY APPROACHING.****

26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

### Ephesians 4:29-32

29 **LET NO CORRUPT (unfit for use, poor quality) COMMUNICATION PROCEED OUT OF YOUR MOUTH, BUT THAT WHICH IS GOOD TO THE USE OF EDIFYING, THAT IT MAY MINISTER GRACE UNTO THE HEARERS.**

30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

31 Let all **BITTERNESS (poison, hatred), and WRATH (temper, boiling up), and ANGER (passion, punishment, vengeance), and CLAMOUR (crying out), and EVIL SPEAKING (slander, injurious to another's name), **BE PUT AWAY FROM YOU, WITH ALL MALICE (ill-will, malice, desire to injure):****

32 **AND BE YE KIND (useful, goodness in action) ONE TO ANOTHER, TENDERHEARTED (sympathetic, compassionate), FORGIVING one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.**

### CULTURE: PATIENT EXPECTATION & WAITING

-- the true Church not only believes Jesus is returning any moment, the true Church expects and lives like it --

### 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and **HOW YE TURNED TO GOD FROM IDOLS TO SERVE THE LIVING AND TRUE GOD;**

10 And **TO WAIT FOR HIS SON FROM HEAVEN,** whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

### 2 Thessalonians 3:5

"And **THE LORD DIRECT YOUR HEARTS INTO THE LOVE OF GOD, AND INTO THE PATIENT WAITING FOR CHRIST.**"

**CULTURE: PURITY OF DOCTRINE**

-- "...they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."  
Acts 17:11 --

**Jude 1:3-5**

3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and **EXHORT YOU THAT YE SHOULD EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH WHICH WAS ONCE DELIVERED UNTO THE SAINTS.**

4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

5 I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.

**1 Timothy 3:15**

"But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is **THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD, THE PILLAR AND GROUND OF THE TRUTH.**"

**CULTURE: PURITY OF CHARACTER & LIFE**

-- *nothing compromises and degrades the testimony of the Church before the world like sin which is hidden, not confronted, not repented of--*

**Ephesians 5:3-11**

3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, **LET IT NOT BE ONCE NAMED AMONG YOU, AS BECOMETH SAINTS;**

4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, **HATH ANY INHERITANCE IN THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST AND OF GOD.**

6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

**7 BE NOT YE THEREFORE PARTAKERS WITH THEM.**

8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

**11 AND HAVE NO FELLOWSHIP WITH THE UNFRUITFUL WORKS OF DARKNESS, BUT RATHER REPROVE THEM.**

**2 Corinthians 7:11**

"For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what **CAREFULNESS** it wrought in you, yea, what **CLEARING OF YOURSELVES**, yea, what **INDIGNATION**, yea, what **FEAR**, yea, what **VEHEMENT DESIRE**, yea, what **ZEAL**, yea, what **REVENGE!** **IN ALL THINGS YE HAVE APPROVED YOURSELVES TO BE CLEAR IN THIS MATTER.**"