

Stay Together

CHURCH IS GOD'S IDEA~ EPH. 2:12-21

FEBRUARY 21, 2016

Intro: Ex Church-goers

Eph. 5:10 "trying to discern what is pleasing to the Lord"

1 Corinthians 13:12 (NLT) — 12 Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.

Concrete vs. Abstract

_____ a church, don't just

_____ as a member, don't just

_____ in membership, don't just

Churchwork:

1. Do you have friends who used to go to church? What is your heart for them? How do you reach out to them?
2. Lasts week we talked about church unity (getting together) and this week about membership (staying together). Do you agree that the staying is harder than the starting? What staying power do you rely on?
3. What is your natural reaction to the gap seen between real church and the ideal church? Is it sinful or praiseworthy? Helpful or hurtful? (1 Cor. 13:12)
4. Think through the Biblical metaphors for the church. Each one has something to say about our identity, our mission, prohibitions and expectations. Does your current church experience ring true of what you read with each of these?
5. While this may not be the only way, putting something in writing in our culture carries weight. Respond to "Membership matters so we put it in writing".
6. Church discipline is the mark of a church seeking to be Biblically faithful. While most discipleship is positive and formative...at times it must be corrective. Read through these passages. How does formally knowing who is in your church aid in following the teaching laid out here? (1 Cor. 5:1-11; Gal. 6:1; 2 Thess. 3:6-15; 1 Tim. 1:19-20; 1 Tim. 5:19-20; Titus 3:9-11; Matt. 18:5-17)
7. Close in prayer. Ask that God would allow us the grace to continue to build his church with him.