



Teaching Notes: Ray Davis

July 3, 2011

How It Changes Everything!

desert breeze community church

Acts 6:1-15 "Vital Church"

What is the most important thing God is doing on planet earth? (Matt. 16:13-20) What is a healthy (vital) church?

A Vital Church is...

- 3) Not about making converts, but disciples.** V1 "when the disciples were increasing" v2 "summoned the full number of disciples" v7 "the number of disciples multiplied greatly." (Matt. 28:18-20; Matt. 13:44)
- 4) Not a perfect church, but a healthy church.** Acts 5 Hypocrisy V1 complaining/Neglect
"Complain" = Gr. a murmur, murmuring, muttering a secret debate, a secret displeasure not openly avowed. (1 Cor. 10:10; Phil. 2:14; Gal. 5:14-15; John 2:17)
- 5) Is balanced in word and deed ministry.** V2 Acts 4:32-33 The Preaching of God's Word produces faith (Rom. 10:16-18) which in turn produces good deeds toward people in need (James 2:1-23). But, on the other hand God uses practical deeds to open the hearts of people to the gospel (Acts 4:32-33; 6:6-7; John 13:35; 1 John 3:17-18).
- 6) Led by Jesus Christ through a plurality of leaders known as elders and deacons.** Vv2-3 (1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Pet. 5:1-4; Heb. 13:17)
- 7) Selects leaders NOT on the basis of popularity, but on the basis of spiritual maturity.** V3 "good repute, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom." V5 "and they chose..." v6 (Apostles ordained them) "they prayed and laid their hands on them."
- 8) Not about form (style) but function (substance).** V5 "what they said (planned changes) pleased the whole gathering." (Luke 5:36-38)

- 1) A Place where everyone is a minister.** Vv2-3 (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12; Eph. 4:1-16; 1 Pet. 4:8-11; John 4:31-38)
- 2) A place that inspires & equips us to live for God's Glory against all odds.** Vv8-15 Stephen (Ex. 33-34; Acts 5:41-42; 2 Cor. 3:18, 4:4-6).

There is not a more exciting adventure this side of eternity than being a part of a church that is beholding God's beauty, reflecting His glory & redeeming people's lives!



Growing

July 3, 2011

desert breeze community church

- 1) What is the most important thing God is doing on this planet earth & who is He doing it with according to Matt. 16:13-20? Not a more exciting adventure this side of heaven than a community that is beholding God's beauty, reflecting His Glory & redeeming lives! Explain.
- 2) Read Acts 5:1-15. What are the high point & low points? A healthy Church is not about making converts but disciples. What's the difference? What was Jesus' last command to His disciples & how does it show us the difference (Matt. 28:18-20)? Discipleship will cost you but not near as much as non-discipleship. Explain.
- 3) There are no perfect churches every church has its share of problems but the more important issue is how do we deal with our problems. Agree or disagree? Explain. What were the problems of the early church in this text & how did they deal with them? What does the Bible say about complaining? (1 Cor. 10:10; Phil. 2:14; Gal. 5:14-15) Why should we always vent up (to leaders) & never down (to followers) about legit issues?
- 4) Why is it important that a church is balanced in word & deed ministry? How does this mesh with our 5G's @ DB? How should a healthy church be led & how should leaders be selected?
- 5) What is the difference between form & function & roles of importance? Everyone is a minister & plays an important role! Explain. The church should be a place that inspires & equips us to live for God's Glory against all odds. How does Steven's life demonstrate this? (vv8-15) Pray that DB would be a Vital Church.