

EM LIVING LIFE (7) CHURCH

(20.10.20)

(1) CHURCH, WHY BOTHER?

1. "Love Jesus, church... not so much!"

"The point here is simply to recognize that if we place all our hope in the local church it is a misplaced hope. Many well-intentioned pastors promote this perspective by proclaiming the local church is the hope of the world. Like most advertising slogans this notion is emotionally appealing. The trouble is this sentiment is not biblical. Jesus and Jesus alone is the hope of the world. The local church is one mechanism that can be instrumental in bringing us closer to Him and helping us to be more like Him. But, as the research data clearly shows, churches are not doing the job. If the local church is the hope of the world, then the world has no hope." – George Barna, *Revolution*

2. Because it _____ to God!

A. Trinitarian Shape of Salvation

- (Eph 1; Gen 12:2; Rev. 7:9)
- (Eph 2:11-22; 3:1-21)

B. Trinitarian Shape of the Apostles' Creed

- Father: _____
- Son: _____
- Spirit: _____

"It is by strict theological logic that the Creed confesses faith in the Holy Spirit before proceeding to the Church, and that it speaks of the Church before mentioning personal salvation. For even though the Father and Son have loved the Church and the Son redeemed it, is the Holy Spirit who actually creates it, by inducing faith; and it is in the Church, through its ministry that personal salvation ordinarily comes to be enjoyed." – J.I.Packer

(2) WHAT IS A CHURCH?

1. _____ NOT A _____

A. Ek + Kaleo

- (Acts 19:32, 38-39)
- (Acts 5:11)

2. A _____ GATHERING

- A. "Community of all true believers for all time" (Mk 1:15; Matt 16:16-18)
- B. (Ex 19:1-6)
- C. (Acts 7:38)

3. AN _____

- A. (Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a)

BIBLICAL METAPHORS

1. The _____ of God

- A. (2Cor 6:18)
- B. (Mk 3:34-35)
- C. (Eph 2:19)
- D. (Heb 2:11; 11:16)

2. The _____ of the Holy Spirit

- A. (1Cor 3:16-17)
- B. (Eph 2:19-22)
- C. (1Cor 12:28; 14:5,12, 19)

3. The _____ of Christ

- A. (Eph 5:23)
- B. (1Cor 12:27; Acts 9:4-5)
- C. (Col 1:24)
- D. (Eph 1:22f)

4. The _____ of Christ

- A. (Eph 5:31-32)
- B. (2Cor 11:2)
- C. (Rev 21:1-2, 9)
- D. (Jn 10:30, 14:9; Col 1:19)

5. SUMMARY

- A. (Amos 3:2; Zech 2:8)
- B. (Eph 1:10, 3:10, 21)

(3) SO, WHAT DID JESUS & THE APOSTLES DO?

1. Jesus and His mission

- A. (Matt 4:19; Jer 16:16)
- B. (Matt 28:19-20; 2Chron. 36:22-23)
- C. (Matt 16:18-19; Matt 18:17; Rev 1:4, 22:16)

2. Apostles and their mission

- A. Equipped
 - (Matt 10:1; Acts 5:12)
 - (Jn 15-16; Acts 1:8)

B. Focus

- (Acts 2:42-47; 5:11; 8:1-3; 9:31; 11:26)
 - (Acts 14:21-23)
 - (Acts 15:41; 16:5)
 - (Acts 20:17,28)
- (1Tim 3:1-8; 14-15; 1Titus 1:5-9)
- (2Cor 11:23-28, vv.2-3; Col 1:24)

- c. "I trust that none of my readers is that grotesque anomaly, an unchurched Christian. The NT knows nothing of such a person. For the church lies at the very center of the eternal purpose of God." – John Stott, *The Living Church: convictions of a lifelong pastor*.

3. **Practical Advice**

"Find a good local church. Get involved. Become a member. Stay there as long as you can. Put away thoughts of a revolution for a while. Join the plodding visionaries. Go to church this Sunday and worship in Spirit and truth. Be patient with your leaders. Rejoice when the gospel is faithfully proclaimed. Bear with those who hurt you. Give people the benefit of the doubt. Say "hi" to the teenager that no one notices.... Volunteer for the nursery. Attend the congregational meeting. Bring your fried chicken to the potluck like everybody else. Invite a friend. Take a new couple out for coffee.... Sing like you mean it. Be thankful someone vacuumed the carpet for you. Enjoy the Sunday that "click." Pray extra hard on the Sundays that don't. And in all of this, do not despise the days and weeks and years of small things." – Kevin DeYoung