

Dear Friend:

How do you measure a good church? Among pastors you may hear several different ways. Sadly, the 3 most common ways are: bodies, buildings and bucks. How many people attend, how large is the building and how much is received in the offering plate. Why do pastors and general church going people use the bodies, buildings, and bucks metrics? Because, that's the way business success is measured. Clearly, that's not the way the bible measures church success. IN America we are consumed with: "Bigger is better and the more income the more proof we are successful".

What are the biblical metrics for a successful church? How does God define what a good church is? Look no further than Philippians 1:1-11. The apostle Paul had a great relationship with the church at Philippi and he commends them for being a good church. First, a good church is one that knows how to create partnerships to spread God's Word and His love (see 1:5 & 9). No matter how small or large a church is in numbers, it must partner with others to maximize the spread of God's salvation. Franklin has had a pretty strong record in the past but not a very good record since COVID. COVID is not an excuse for nearly stopping gall our local and worldwide outreach work. Also, a good church is a church of persistence. While our record on partnership has not been good lately, our persistence for pursuing God has not lapsed at all! A third and final metric: a good church is a church of purity (see 1:10). The purity of a church is hard to truly measure on an individual basis, but on a "church as a whole" basis the purity is possible to measure. Metrics such as: is the church doctrinally true to the Bible, do the members appear to be living out purity in their lives?

In no way do I want to display an attitude that "big churches" do not measure themselves by biblical metrics. The bottom line is this: Is a church regularly making disciples...producing people who walk-out the church doors and go share their faith and live a Christ-centered life? It is easier NOT to do that in a larger church, but it is just as possible not to do that in a smaller church as well.

In Christ's Love, Pastor Mike

Prayer Requests: The Family of Margie Lindenboldt, Harry Kring, Terry Roush