

THE CHURCH: AN ORGANISM NOT AN ORGANIZATION

Dear Friend:

There are a lot of names and titles given to the church in the Bible; the church is the body of Christ, the building of Christ, the bride of Christ, the family of believers, God's household, the congregation of saints, the flock of God. The church is organic. Webster defines organic as "relating to or derived from living organisms". The building at 7171 Central College Rd. consists of bricks (nice looking I must say), concrete, concrete blocks, wood, and other materials. However, the building is not "living" and therefore it is not the church. It happens to be the building that "hosts" the Christians who identify themselves as Franklin Church. I Corinthians 12:27 says: "Now you are the BODY of Christ, and each one of you (Christians) is a part of "it". Wherever the Christians who identify themselves as Franklin Church meet, there is "the Church". A body is a living organism; therefore, it is not an organization.

From 1980-2010 the huge rise and popularity of the church as an organization exploded. As medium size churches grew into mega churches, church pastors and leaders were constantly fed the idea that the church needed to be run like Apple, Starbucks, Honda (they were breaking sales records), and even Disney World (they did hospitality right). I will never forget when one of our church leaders preached a sermon at a national conference holding a Starbucks coffee in his hand and telling us how we needed to model their "way of doing things". Something didn't sit right with me that day and 12 years later I know why. The church isn't an organization, it is Christ's living organism.

Pastors and leaders were told they need to be the CEO of the church, they needed leadership training (that's not a bad idea if it's biblical leadership: be a servant like Jesus). We were told/sold on the idea: "Pastor, you need to have a vision and get your people behind it". Really? I disagree 100%. First, the pastor's vision idea is nowhere to be found in the Bible, it is a copy of an organizational principle. Second, if we form a vision, it should be the collective vision of a team of church leaders. Third, who says God gives the vision to one single person: the pastor. Personally, I don't know how you can improve on the vision of the results of the Great Commissions: a disciple making Church. I am out of time and out of room, but may God help us be His Church, His body, His bride, His living organism.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

Events: This Saturday move clocks ahead one hour; This Sunday – Bible Study 9:00am & Worship at 10:00am; Next Thursday, March 16, 6:00pm Women's Ministry Meeting

Prayer: Praise for exceeding our Building Fund Goal, Pastor Dan Kopp, Midge Gathers (shut-in of the month), Debbie Williams, Pat Twomey, Marily Holmes