

## THE KIND OF CHURCH GOD WANTS US TO BE

Dear Friend:

There are about 350,000 churches in the United States (about 1,000 in Franklin County). That's huge! It would be no exaggeration to say there's something for everyone! If you asked 10 people from 10 different churches what they think a church should "be" you would probably get 20 different answers. The most popular pastor's conferences focus on how to build a large church, how to attract people (which really becomes shifting the sheep). Don't get me wrong, there is some value in some of the conferences but the flaw in many of the conferences is that they use a cookie cutter approach: "Be like this (which usually means "us") and watch your church grow".

I have a thought - why don't we take our idea of what a church should be straight-out of the Bible? Remember, the church is people. So goes the people, so goes the church. In Colossians 1:9 Paul says it is his prayer that the church members know God's will and have His understanding. Church members who know the will of God know what God wants for His church. In Colossians 1:10a Paul says that church members should live a life pleasing to God. Wouldn't that be great if all (or at least most) church members did live a life pleasing to God? If so, that would be a great church! My final thought about being the Church God wants us to be is found in Colossians 1:10b. Paul prayed that the people would live a productive life for God, he calls it "bearing fruit". To bear fruit requires us to use our spiritual gifts for the kingdom and it also means spreading the Gospel.

You do not need to pay money to go to a conference to find out what kind of church Franklin Church should be. Paul tells us: Perceive (know) God's will, Please God by the way we live and be Productive in using our spiritual gifts and spreading His Word.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

Prayer: Matt Davis, Joe Lee, Mavis Baker  
Events: Communion Sunday