

THE CHURCH GOD WANTS US TO BE

Dear Friend:

All of us have an image in our heart and mind about what makes a good church and everyone's image is different. Why? Because in picturing a good church we have 3 variables: absolutes, convictions, and preferences. We should all agree on the absolutes (Trinity, Bible, salvation, etc.). We will not all agree on convictions. Convictions are things in the Bible that are not easily black or white; things like how to baptize (dunk or sprinkle), Elder Board (all male or not, or even if Elder Board is necessary), and whether Christians should drink alcohol. Then, we have preferences: preferences are things that are not in the Bible but factor into church sometimes. Pews or chairs? Traditional, contemporary, or blended worship service? Unfortunately, churches fight more over preferences than absolutes and convictions combined.

I like the book of Titus because Paul describes what a good church is, and he doesn't mention preferences and very little about convictions. But he does discuss absolutes! We can learn from the book of Titus what kind of church God wants us to be. Paul, the author, writes about 3 qualities of a good church. First, God wants a church to be a church with purpose. Sure, Franklin Church has a really good Purpose/Mission statement, but how do we "grade-out" on doing our mission statement? Second: God wants a church to be a church of purity. Titus pastors a church in Crete, unfortunately, Cretans were known to be lazy gluttons and generally just crude rude dudes! I don't believe at all Franklin Church is anything like the Cretans, let's keep it that way!

The third quality of a good church: A church with performance. Not referring at all to the pastor or music people who entertain the congregation. We already have enough of that. What I do mean is that we need to be sure our beliefs match our behavior. Titus has 46 verses but there are 85 references to behavior. We say we care, we love, we pray, we witness, etc. Then *we must demonstrate these!*.

There you have it, the church God wants us to be! Purpose - Purity - Performance.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

Prayer Concerns: Steve Caudill (cancer), Dick Fisher (brain tumor), Fair and just Peace talks around the world

Events: Next Saturday, March 29th, 1:45 p.m. Movies 16 Gahana, Movie: The Last Supper.

Remember: Sunday, March 30th, 1pm-3pm Retirement Party for Pastor Mike. If you got an invitation, please be sure to get your RSVP in.