

Christ In The Church

(Ephesians 1:22-23)

- Introduction:
1. One of the greatest compliments given to the church is listed in the above passage.
 2. Not only is it a great compliment, but places upon us the most serious obligation.
 3. We are the body of Christ in the world today. We are to be the point of contact Christ has with the world.
 - a. Our lips must speak the message of salvation as Jesus would have.
 - b. Our hands must bind up the wounds of sinners as Jesus would have.
 - c. Our feet must take us to people who need a Savior as Jesus would have.
 4. If Jesus is living in His church, the church will reflect the attributes of Jesus.
 5. The following are several attributes of Jesus the church ought to be reflecting.

I. The Church Should Be Prayerful

- A. Is prayer a notable characteristic of this congregation?
- B. (Matthew 21:13) My house shall be called a house of prayer.
- C. (Luke 11:1) Lord, teach us how to pray.
- D. Prayer is not an emotionless (Heb. 5:7 - vehement cries), rote memorized, exercise in discipline.
- E. (Ephesians 3:20; James 5:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:17).

II. The Church Should Be Mission Minded

- A. (John 4:34) My food is to do the will of the Father.
- B. (Luke 19:10) I came to seek and save the lost.
- C. Ills. of the parable of the Lighthouse.
- D. (Philippians 1:21; Galatians 2:20).

III. The Church Should Be Compassionate & Merciful

- A. (Matthew 9:36) He was moved with compassion.
- B. (Matthew 23:23) Mercy is a weightier matter of the law.
- C. (Luke 23:34) Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.
- D. (Micah 7:18) Who is a God like you?...
- E. (Psalm 103:8-13).
- F. Ills. of kids and ambulance.

IV. The Church Should Teach As Jesus Taught

- A. (Matthew 7:28-29) They were astonished at his teaching.
- B. Characteristics of his teaching
 1. It was balanced (Matthew 5-7; 23).
 2. It was biblical as opposed to speculative (1 Peter 4:11; Luke 4).
 3. It was uncompromising (Mark 10:17-22).

- Conclusion:
1. Jesus needs to be allowed to live in His church.
 2. He purchased it with his own blood, he is its head.
 3. If Jesus is to accomplish what he wants accomplished, it requires our cooperation.
 4. Let Jesus live in your church.