

Marks of an Effective Church

(Ephesians 1:22-23)

- Introduction:
1. Churches today face a dilemma that, I suppose, they have always faced.
 2. That dilemma is, "How do we maintain our effectiveness, without going beyond Scripture?"
 3. I think we have all seen churches that seem more interested in maintaining their comfort zones than in raiding Satan's camp and freeing his captives.
 4. On the other hand, we have seen churches that have succumb to the pressures of being relevant to our culture and have compromised God's word for the approval of men.
 5. Both of these extremes are wrong, and as usual, the truth is somewhere in the middle of these two extremes.
 6. In this lesson, I want to propose what an effective church looks like.

I. Christ Centered

- A. (Galatians 2:20).
- B. Jesus is our Savior and only hope.
- C. (2 Kings 18:4; 1 Samuel 4:3).

II. Bound by Scripture

- A. (John 12:48).
- B. (1 Corinthians 4:6).
- C. (2 Timothy 4:1-5).

III. Respects Diversity in Matters Of Option

- A. (Romans 14:1 - 15:13).
- B. (Psalm 133:1).

IV. Visionary Leadership

- A. Leadership in the church is not equivalent to what the world sees as leadership.
- B. (Matthew 20:28).
- C. Styles of leadership contrasted.
 1. Mission -vs- Maintenance.
 2. Thermostats -vs- Thermometers.

V. Lives are Changed

- A. (2 Corinthians 5:18-19).
- B. The church is more like an emergency room rather than a sterile laboratory.

- Conclusion:
1. Effectiveness in a church has little to do with size, wealth, or education, but in its commitment to Jesus.