

April 19, 2015

“I Love My Church”

Learning to Care for One Another!

Part 1

“We Are” — “The Church!”

“God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.” Ephesians 1:22-23

A. The church’s foundation is Jesus Christ...

1. Christ is the Head of the church.
2. Christ’s Word is the directive of the church.
3. Christ’s Way is the method for the church.
4. Christ’s Will is the heart in the church.

“So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.”

Colossians 1:9-10

B. The church is...

“Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means ‘rock’), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.”

Matthew 16:18

1. The church is not a building.
2. The church is not a person.

3. The church is a gathering.
4. The church is a movement!

“...I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
Matthew 28:18-20

C. The first church...

“All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.” Acts 2:42-47

1. The first church shared unity.
“All the believers...”
2. The first church shared community by devoting themselves to the same principles...teaching, fellowship, eating together, and to prayer.

3. The first church shared with one another regularly... sharing their resources.
4. The first church grew...and was large!

D. If we are the church...then we must be the church...

“All of you together are Christ’s body, and each of you is a part of it.” 1 Corinthians 12:27

1. We must move from consumers to contributors.
2. We must be committed to one another.
3. We must be in community with one another.
4. We must keep the commission before us of reaching unchurched people! It is not about us...it is about Him!

In central PA we are familiar with this call, “We Are!” “Penn State!” However, our greater identity is not to a ball team but to our greatest call...

So... “We Are!”
“The Church!”