

The Faithful Church

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.
Matthew 28:19-20

Christian Schwarz provides 8 essential qualities of healthy churches:

- #1: Empowering Leadership
- #2: Gift Oriented Ministry
- #3: Passionate Spirituality
- #4: Functional Structures
- #5: Inspiring Worship Service
- #6: Holistic Small Groups
- #7: Need Oriented Evangelism
- #8: Loving Relationships.

Natural church development happens when these eight essential qualities are present within the healthy church.

- Church growth concerns faithful obedience to God
- The church then is faithful with time, talents, treasures, truth, and relationships.
- What does it mean to be a faithful church:

THE FAITHFUL CHURCH IS ONE IN WHICH EVERY PART DOES ITS SHARE

Gary McIntosh lists nine principals in his book, *Biblical Church Growth*.

The first principal is having a commitment to the right premise: **God's Word**

- The bible is God's written word to us and is God breathed.

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Tim. 3:16-17

- Because the bible is God's word, it has authority over our lives.
- This means that the bible stands in judgment over us.
- We do not stand in judgment over the bible.

The second principal focuses on the right priority:

Glorifying God

- This means that our main goal is bringing glory to the Life Giving God.
- This includes acknowledging that God is the creator and deserves honor and praise.
- Encouraging public and private worship of God as a means of giving Him Glory.
- Develop ministries/small groups (small churches) that clearly seek to glorify God.

In Conclusion ...

The faithful church brings glory to God by the power of the Spirit, through proclamation and obedience to the word of God, transforming all into the priesthood of all believers.

Digging Deeper

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

If someone were to look at patterns of your life, would they see a love for God's word, and a desire to glorify God through discipleship?

Explain of a new victory or transformed area of your life through the power of the Holy Spirit. How might you be grieving (Eph. 4:30) or quenching (2 Thess. 5:19) the Holy Spirit.

Explain a current practice of behavior, which reveals your effort toward helping others grow in discipleship, and effective outreach and church ministries.

Series on The Faithful Steward



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