

FACETS OF A GODLY CHRISTIAN Church

Romans 1:1-12

Introduction: **What are the Characteristics of a Well-Cut Diamond?**

The easy answer...a ton of sparkle, shine and brightness. The scientific answer... brilliance, fire and scintillation!

- **Brilliance:** otherwise known as brightness, is the effect of all the diamond's internal and external reflections of white light. The brighter the diamond, the higher the grade will be.
- **Fire:** this is the spectral colors that we see from a diamond. All of the flashes of colored light when the diamond is rocked back and forth under a direct light source.
- **Scintillation:** a combination of sparkle and light pattern. Sparkle is the spots of light that flash when the diamond, you or the light source move. Pattern is the contrast between the light and dark areas within the diamond.

A probing question: What are the facets of a great church? Churches differ in personality and character. We might say, "That is a good church; that is a truly great church; that is an average church; that church is large; that church is small. I would say to you today that it is impossible to analyze what makes up a great church. Facets of a diamond church:

Some facets of a great church from the Apostle Paul as he addresses the people at Rome:

- I. **A EFFECTIVE PASTOR V. 1; VS. 8-12**
 - A. Called: Not just a professional I Cor. 1:17-21
 - B. Deep Spiritual Experience I Peter 5: 1-4
 - C. Spiritual and intellectual hunger for the word
 - D. Loves People
 - E. Understands what the church is: Not an organization to be run, but a deep spiritual fellowship
 - F. Has a deep spiritual vision
- II. **A SPIRITUALLY MINDED PEOPLE V. 6-7, 8, 11, 12**
 - A. An evident bond of fellowship in Christ

- B. More emphasis on prayer than promotion
- C. A deep concern for others
- D. A deep desire to serve Christ

III. A BROAD CHRISTIAN SENSE OF MISSION AND PURPOSE V. 8, 11

- A. Not just existing, but being alive more abundantly
- B. Worship is never neglected
- C. Evangelism is basic
- D. Teaching is paramount v. 11
- E. Compassionate ministry to the needs of others

IV. A GREAT FELLOWSHIP THAT BEGINS WITH CHRIST V. 12

- A. A strong spirit of fellowship
- B. A genuine spirit of concern one for another
- C. The fellowship is a constant witness to the community

Conclusion: What I have given to you this morning are certainly not all facets of a great church, but some of the most important. Other facets to be dealt with as we go along: 1. A good program 2. Capable leadership 3. Godly functioning organism

Invitation: Where am I in all of this? What do I personally need to commit more personally to Christ and His church? How can I be a better member of this church?