

A Healthy Church

Pastor Anthony J. Shetley, Sunday, September 28, 2025

Introduction: We want Point of Life Church to be a healthy, biblical church.

Warning: Jesus said that some will do mighty works in His name, but He will say, “I never knew you” (Matthew 7:21–23).

We want to be a church known by Christ, recognized by Him, entrusted with the keys of the kingdom (Matthew 16:18–19), a church the gates of hell cannot overcome.

I. The Church as Community

- **God created us for relationship, not isolation:** “It is not good for man to be alone” (Genesis 2:18).
- Sin broke fellowship with God, but in love He sent His Son (John 3:16).
- Through Christ’s atoning work, we are reconciled to God (Romans 5:10–11) and placed into His church, the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27).

The church is a Christian community where we:

- Support one another (Galatians 6:2).
- Pray for one another (James 5:16).
- Exhort and encourage one another (Hebrews 10:24–25).
- Love one another (John 13:34–35).

*Our greatest fellowship is with God Himself, (1 John 1:7).
“If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another”*

II. The Church as the Body of Christ

- We are given different gifts and callings (Romans 12:4–6; 1 Corinthians 12:4–7).
- Each member is placed in the body according to God’s design (1 Corinthians 12:18).
- A healthy body must pull together in unity:

*“Do not be unequally yoked” (2 Corinthians 6:14).
We are yoked together with one another and with Christ (Matthew 11:29–30).*

**Unity is vital: “Be perfectly joined together in the same mind and judgment”
(1 Corinthians 1:10).**

**We must diligently preserve the unity of the Spirit
(Ephesians 4:3).**

*If yoked but pulling in opposite directions,
the church will be harmed, weakened, and unproductive.*

III. The Church as the Branches in the Vine

- Jesus is the true Vine; the Father is the caretaker (John 15:1–5).
- Branches must be healthy and bear fruit, for by this the Father is glorified (John 15:8).

To thrive, we must:

- Abide in Christ.
- Accept pruning so that fruit increases.
- Be in the right place spiritually.

Application: Like John Mark (Acts 13:13; 15:36–40; 2 Timothy 4:11)

*we may need to make changes based upon our spiritual status and/or season
in order to thrive spiritually and serve effectively.*

IV. The Church Examined by Christ

In Revelation:

- Jesus stands among His churches with eyes of fire (Revelation 1:12–14, 20).
- He commends strengths and confronts weaknesses (Revelation 2–3).
- He desires repentance, restoration, and readiness, not condemnation

The seven churches represent both real congregations and the complete history of the church (Revelation 1:20; 3:19).

Christ desires His church to be prepared as His glorious bride (Ephesians 5:27).

*Urgency: The rapture is near (1 Thessalonians 4:16–17).
We don't have time to toy with sin, division, or disobedience.*

Conclusion & Call

A healthy church is:

- A community of fellowship.
- A body working in unity.
- Branches abiding and bearing fruit.
- A church examined and refined by Christ.

Personal application:

Am I in the place where God has called me? Am I contributing to the health of the church? Am I ready for Christ's return?

Closing Scripture: "Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually" (1 Corinthians 12:27).