

## **Sermon Notes and Discussion Questions: Under God: One Church Under God**

Describe the model church. What would it look like, what characteristics would make it admirable?

The Bible has a lot to say about church. To have a church “under God” we must submit to what the Bible says about the model church.

Matthew 16 records the first time the word church is used in the Bible. It states that the gates of hell will not prevail against the church.

How would you reconcile this statement of Christ concerning the dominance of the church and the current declining state of the American Church?

Paul wrote about a church in the New Testament that had admirable characteristics. The church at Thessalonica was a church worth modeling.

1. A model church is marked by power of the Holy Spirit

- A worship to be experienced
- The Word to be embraced

2. A model church is marked by its passion in Evangelism

- Concern for the lost
- committed to the Great Commission

3. A model church is marked by the example they leave

- labored in love in the work of God
- looked for the coming of the Son of God

Think about the influence our church and its members have had in the last year. Could we say that people twenty miles away are talking about our Christian example? Ten miles? One mile? What does this say about the example of our church compared to that of the Thessalonians? Which of the qualities of the Thessalonians do you most wish to see developed in your life now? What roles does the church play in our society?

For what do you thank God as you pray for our church?

For whom are you a model of Jesus Christ? What kind of model are they seeing?