

Prayer-worthy:

4 Essential Qualities that Great Churches Seek

I. **BELIEVE:** Great churches are known from their uncompromising faith in Jesus Christ (v. 15a).

A. The inspiration for Paul's prayer for the church at Ephesus is the faith of its members.

B. Pray:

1. That our church will grow in its faith in Christ and deepen its investment in Christ's Kingdom.
2. That people of Las Cruces who are far from Christ will draw near to him through faith.

II. **BELONG:** Great churches are known for providing a loving atmosphere for people to belong (vv. 15b-16).

A. The inspiration for Paul's prayer for the church at Ephesus is its love for one another.

B. Pray:

1. That our church will continue in our love and commitment to one another.
2. That we will be hospitable to newcomers and provide an easy and clear pathway for them to belong to our body.

III. **BE CHANGED:** Great churches seek to provide a context for people to be transformed through a relationship with Jesus Christ (v. 17-18a).

A. Paul's desire for the church when he prayed was for them to gain spiritual discernment through their knowledge of Jesus Christ.

B. Pray:

1. That our church will have clarity, discernment and courage to make the decisions we need to make to reflect greater faithfulness to our mission so that people's lives are changed.
2. That we will take greater personal responsibility for our spiritual growth and deepen our investment to the Kingdom of God.

IV. **BE SENT:** Great churches equip and send members into their calling and regularly display the resurrection power of Jesus Christ through Gospel ministry.

A. The reason Paul wanted the church to have spiritual discernment was so that they would experience the joy and privilege of living out their purpose and experience the resurrection power of Christ through Gospel ministry.

B. Pray:

1. That the culture in our church will promote service according to giftedness and calling instead of people pleasing or tradition.
2. That our ministry will regularly display the resurrection power of Jesus Christ to set people free from addictions, heal people from depression and anxiety, restore broken marriages, give hope to the hopeless, bring purpose to the lost, comfort to the lonely, and provide community to those trapped in isolation.
3. For every member to experience God's healing in areas where there is brokenness and to become more deeply invested in the Gospel mission through our ministry.