

Let's Talk Church:

Alive vs. Artificial

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What characterizes a healthy church?

1. HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

- 1.1.** We need to pursue authentic, vulnerable and accountable relationships in church.
- 1.2.** Fake church has superficial and shallow relationships. No one has the hard conversations; no one confronts others or even themselves.

Colossians 3:16 “ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

- 1.3.** We are meant to have warmth, fellowship and harmony. We are meant to live in peace with each other, love each other and serve one another.

Romans 12:10 “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love...”

Romans 12:10 “...Honour one another above yourselves.”

Romans 12:16 “Live in harmony with one another...”

2. HOLY SPIRIT MOVES

- 2.1.** A healthy and alive church is moved and driven by Holy Spirit.
- 2.2.** The fastest way for a church to die is to be driven by it self.
- 2.3.** The word tells us that where the Spirit of God is there is life, freedom and liberty.

Genesis 1:1-2 (MSG) “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.”

John 6: 63 (NLT) “The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. “

- 2.4.** A healthy church that is driven by Holy Spirit has fruit, life-giving fruit of the Spirit and not fake plastic fruit.

3. IT REPRODUCES

- 3.1. Where there is life there is reproduction and where there is reproduction there is life. We teach what we know but we reproduce what we are.
- 3.2. A church with members that stay immature will either die or be ineffective.

Hebrews 5:12 (NLT) “You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God’s word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food.”

- 3.3. The story of the talents is a story of being responsible for the reproduction growth of those talents (Matthew 25:14-27).
- 3.4. To grow up, mature and bear fruit is one of the first signs of life in a church. One of our biggest responsibilities on earth is to be a disciple and to make disciples.

4. IT EMBRACES CHANGE

- 4.1. A healthy church is flexible and ready for change. They are relevant to the times without abandoning God's will and His word.
- 4.2. The bible speaks of needing new wine skins for a fresh out pouring of Holy Spirit/ wine.

Mark 2:21-22 (NLT) “Besides, who would patch old clothing with new cloth? For the new patch would shrink and rip away from the old cloth, leaving an even bigger tear than before. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the wine would burst the wineskins, and the wine and the skins would both be lost. New wine calls for new wineskins.”

5. IT MOVES TO MISSION

- 5.1. A fake church is stagnant. They are afraid of the world and being in it. They don't want to associate with unbelievers because they fear corruption.
- 5.2. A living church cares about what God cares about - the lost, lonely desolate people out there.
- 5.3. We have a mandate to go out and to grow the Kingdom.

Sermon Discussion Guide
Alive vs. Artificial

OPEN YOUR GROUP WITH A PRAYER. THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE – SELECT THE POINTS YOU WANT TO DISCUSS.

1. Do you have authentic, vulnerable, accountable relationships in church?
2. After reading the story of the talents in Matthew 25, do you see yourself as one of the workers who worked well with what the master entrusted them or do you see yourself as the worker who buried what was given to him?
3. Do you fear change or do you embrace it?
4. Do you only associate with other believers or do you go out and befriend unbelievers to show them who Jesus is?