

Personal/Small Group Study

Week of July 14, 2024, A.D.

Seven Attributes of a Strong Church

Charles Stanley has written a brief article in which he lists seven attributes which should describe a healthy church. Those attributes are: Bible-centered; spiritual; evangelistic; influential; financially sound; friendly; and, growing. Much can be said about each of these attributes. We will take just a brief glance at each attribute in this lesson.

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17 and 2 Peter 1:19-21

1. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "The Bible is the inerrant (which means: correct, free of any error, and infallible) word of God; and, it is the only guidebook for life for all who claim to be followers of Jesus."
2. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "A church which does not study, know, and practice the teachings of the Bible is not a true church."
3. Please analyze and discuss this statement: "A church which does not accept all of Scripture as the inerrant ("free from error") word of God is not a true church."

Read 1 Corinthians 2:11-16

4. Please explain and discuss the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Christian.
5. Consider the church which you attend. What evidence do you see that your church depends upon the Holy Spirit for guidance from, understanding from, and obedience to God and the Bible?

Read Colossians 4:2-6 and 2 Timothy 4:2-5

6. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Every Christian has an obligation to tell as many people as possible that faith in Jesus is the only way to eternal life."

7. What, if anything, does your church do to enable new believers to grow in their faith and to share the gospel with others? Please explain.

Read 1 Peter 2:11-12 and Colossians 1:9-10

8. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "God expects every Christian to be a person of influence and an agent for change in the community and society in which they live."
9. Is it right for a church to strategically plan to be influential in its community? If your church were to close its doors today and not re-open, would its absence be noticed by your community?

Read 2 Corinthians 9:10-15

10. "A church should use its financial resources for these purposes: making disciples; equipping its members for service to Christ; evangelizing the lost (locally and throughout the world); and meeting the needs of others." Is there anything which you would add to or remove from this statement?

Read Philippians 2:3-4 and Matthew 7:7

11. Is it important to invite people to attend church services? If you were to attend a particular church for the first time on a Sunday morning, would you want people to ignore you or to engage in friendly conversation? If you were in charge of preparing your church members to properly welcome their Sunday morning guests, what would you do to accomplish that objective?

Read Acts 2:41,46-47 and 1 Peter 2:2

12. Which is more important: (a) for a church to grow in numbers or (b) for a church to grow spiritually?
13. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "A church that does not take deliberate action to have increased attendance is telling the world that "it can go to hell."

Consider: A church should do more than go through the motions of playing church. A church should seek to fulfill the great commandment and the great commission through worship, fellowship, discipleship, service, and evangelism. "You think about that." Amen.