

SEEING THE CHURCH FROM GOD'S POINT OF VIEW

Ephesians 4:1-16

July 7, 2024

We often need reminders of what the Church is because we limit our understanding to what we see and experience in our own local congregation.

God wants us to understand these truths about the Church from His perspective.

1. Jesus is the HEAD of the CHURCH.

And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way. Ephesians 1:22-23

2. The Church is CHRIST'S BODY at work in the world.

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 1 Corinthians 12:27

3. The Church is commissioned to proclaim the HOPE of the WORLD

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." John 20:21

See Matthew 28:18-20

4. Everybody is SOMEBODY in the Lord's Body.

The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:12

5. We must see God's GRAND VISION for the Church.

Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21

6. The Church stays healthy when engaged in four on-going processes.

A. Believing

B. BELONGING

C. Befriending

D. BECOMING

"... until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." Ephesians 4:13

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Ephesians 4:15-16

Is your view of the Church the same as God's?

1. Sometimes we need to step back and see a bigger, Biblical perspective. What have you been reminded of about the Church that you have lost focus on?
2. When we hear the word *Church*, why do church buildings or church activities come to mind? How can those things keep us from staying focused on God's bigger purposes for the Church?
3. How will you be more committed to what God wants for His Church? How will you think and act with His views in mind?

All Scriptures are from the 1984 New International Version unless otherwise indicated.