

Encouraging Community for a New Year, Pt. 3

Selected Scriptures

WHY I LOVE THE CHURCH

1. It is designed and built by Jesus Christ – Matthew 16:18
2. It has been purchased by Jesus Christ – Acts 20:28;
1 Corinthians 6:20; Ephesians 5:23
3. It is living expression of the living Savior – Ephesians 5:1
4. It is the unique testimony of corporate worship
– John 4:23-24; 1 Corinthians 14:20-25
5. It is the unique gathering for edification – Ephesians 4:11-16;
Hebrews 10:23-25

WHAT IS A HEALTHY CHURCH MEMBER?

1. A Disciple. — An individual who has experienced genuine conversion through the gospel.
 - a. Recognizes God is holy – Romans 3:21-25
 - b. Understands man is totally depraved and separated from the holy God – Romans 3:23
 - c. Realizes Jesus became sinful man's substitute on the cross – Romans 5:8-9
 - d. Realizes salvation is receiving God's gift of grace through confessional repentance and faith – Romans 10:9-10
2. A Growing Disciple.
 - a. Definition – Ephesians 4:13-16
 - (1.) Not a performance trap

(2.) Not creating a standard for judging or comparison with others

(3.) Not measured by personal feelings

b. Activity

(1.) Is an expositional listener and student of God's word
– 2 Timothy 2:14-15, 3:16-17, and 4:3

(2.) Thinks theologically – Romans 12:2;
Colossians 3:10, 16

c. Expression – Philippians 3:12-16

3. A Gospel-Saturated Disciple. – Ephesians 2:4-7

Daily reminder of

- a. God's love and mercy
- b. God's grace and forgiveness
- c. Security of the Believer

