

How to Make Church Work

Philippians 2:3-4

3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

What is a church or the church.

I have a class I teach at seminary. A three hour college credit course about this. And what I teach is what the Bible says, not what some denomination says. The statement of faith adopted by this church in 1848 says.

We believe that a visible Church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by his laws, and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by his Word; that its only scriptural officers are Bishops, or Pastors, and Deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

The covenant we use is in the cover of each hymnal.

But those are words.

What is a church? What did Jesus mean to do when He gave us the church?

What did Paul intend when he establish churches everywhere he had converts on his missionary journeys?

The world has seen the benefits of the church and have borrowed heavily from it.

Support groups.

Group counseling.

Benefits to help people.

And as the world has borrowed from the church, the church have given up those things.

- I. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit,
 - A. Selfishness is our first sin.
 - B. The first sin of Adam & Eve was based on what was best for themselves.
 - C. In the church it is not ourselves, but Christ and others that we want to serve.
 - D. The church comes together for worship but that is not all there is.
 1. We don't attend church.
 2. We don't go down to the church.
- II. But in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

- A. The Bible constantly warns against the opposite of humility, pride.
 - B. And Jesus seemed to be continually encouraging His followers to humility.
- III. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.
- A. The church is meant to be a place where we can get support and encouragement.
 - B. It is a place where we can get wise council and a helping hand.