

From Pastor's Desk...

## I love my Church: attitude affects results

Jesus Christ came not only to save sinners, but also to build His Church (Mt 16:18). On the day of Pentecost, when people came to Christ, they were incorporated into a new and caring community which is both universal and local by the very fact that it includes God's people in all places and in all times.

The Lord has assigned each to His task as Paul writes, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So, neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who makes things grow (1Cor. 3:6-7). Everyone belongs to the church need to honor Lord as the architect and recognize others for corporate task.

John R W Stott describes in his commentary on Acts, the marks of the first Spirit-filled community that emerged following the day of Pentecost:

1. They were related to the apostles (in **submission**). They devoted themselves to the solid teaching. It is important to believe and obey what Jesus and His apostles teach.
2. They were related to each other (in **love**). They persevered in fellowship, supporting each other and relieving the needs of the poor. A Spirit-filled Church is a loving, caring, sharing church.
3. They were related to God (in **worship**). Prayer, praise, Lord's Supper, great joy, and sincere hearts were integrated in worship.
4. They were related to the world (in **witness**). They did not follow cleverly invented story, but they eye witnesses of His majesty (2Pet. 1:16). Witnessing Christ is the result of true anointing. The early Church grew in number and quality.

As Rick Warren writes, "the issue is church health, not church growth, if your church is healthy, growth will occur naturally".

When Sir Christopher Wren was supervising to reconstruct St. Paul's cathedral asked three different laborers, all engaged in the same task, regarding their work. The first said, "I am cutting the stone". The second said, "I am earning three shillings, six pence today". The third man said, "I am helping Sir Christopher Wren to build this great Cathedral". Each had different ways of looking the same job.

When we say we love our Church, will our efforts contribute to something greater than our own interests? Our attitude affects the results. Let us be a stronger community of God's people to impact the generation.

In His Glorious Ministry,

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## Do you love your church?

(Sis. Sheba Kuruvilla)

What is a church? Which one of the below answers do you agree with?

1. Church is the body of Christ.
2. Church is a place where you can come and be refreshed
3. Church is full of politics.
4. I do not like the church members. Do you not know what they do Monday through Friday? Do you expect me to share the same pew with them?
5. I do not get anything from church. It is a waste of time.
6. The music is too slow or too fast or too loud.
7. The message is too long or too short.
8. I come to church because my parents make me! If I had a choice, I would not.
9. I love coming to church.
10. I can hear God's plans for my life when I come to church.

All of the above are responses of varying degrees. What is a church? Is it the place which has just the "perfect" music, the "perfect" sermon and is filled with "perfect" people? What does Bible say a church is? We find the answer in 1 Corinthians 3:16.

### Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?

Now look the list above. How would you feel if someone comments on you in a similar fashion? It is great to hear that others think you are refreshing them, you speak God's voice in their life that your comments are like beautiful music in their ears. Wouldn't that be wonderful? Now how would you feel if the negative comments were made about you?

Bible does not say that the temple of God has to be "perfect." It says it is YOU! Church is not a group of people who meet every Sunday. It is you! You are responsible to not just receive every Sunday but be a church to others.

A famous quote says that you are the only Jesus some people will see, you are the only Bible some people will ever read. To add to this, you are the only church, some people will ever experience. Are you doing a good job being a church out in the world? Do you love your church?