

February 11, 2024

Series: *Marks of a Healthy Church*

Sermon #1: 'What is the Church?'

Introduction

The Church & *Googleplex*...

How do we evaluate a church? It's got less to do with any cultural concept of a 'successful' or 'perfect' church and all to do with the One who has absolute authority over everything, including his church: the Lord Jesus Christ (Matt. 16:18).

1) Defining 'The Church':

- a) *Ekklesia*
- b) *The gospel + community = the church*
- c) *Narrowing the focus from the universal church (true Christians all around the world) to something smaller: the local church (Christians gathered in one place/location).*

2) Three New Testament Images of the Church

- a) The Bride of Christ (Eph. 5:25-27)
- b) The Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:12-31)
- c) The Family of God (Rom. 8:15-17)

3) Learning to Live (Practical Applications):

1. The church is essential to everything Jesus is doing in this world.
2. We must have a high view of the local church.
3. We must be willing to commit to a local church.

Conclusion

Charles Spurgeon:

If I had never joined a church till I had found one that was perfect, I should never have joined one at all; and the moment I did join it, if I had found one, I should have spoiled it, for it would not have been a perfect church after I had become a member of it. Still, imperfect as it is, it is the dearest place on earth to us."

Growth Groups meeting this week:

Feb. 11, 7:30pm: Blyth/Belgrave (Sutcliffe residence); Feb. 15, 7:30pm: Clinton/Seaforth (Little residence);
Feb. 15, 7pm: Goderich (Katchikian residence); Feb. 19, 7:30pm: North Goderich (De Jager residence)