

The Power of the Church

2/16/2005

“They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers.” Acts 2:42 The Message

SUMMARY:

It is easy to drive by a building and think because of the sign out front or architecture that it is a church. But a church is not about bricks and mortar. The real power of a church is a group of people that have been called out from their own way of life to become followers of Jesus Christ. When this gathering happens, there are common activities that make it full of God's power. The Bible teaches us what makes up a real church.

NOTES:

DISCUSSION POINTS:

Introductory Question: What is the real purpose of the church?

- Discussion: Does it seem that churches, because they are made up of people, tend to lose focus on their purpose and power?
- We've all talked about, or probably been, "hypocrites in the church", and nobody wants to fall into that trap. What attitude should we develop about this challenge to the church?
- How do you thrive in a church?

APPLICATION:

- If you are not part of a local church, talk with a trusted friend about their church and visit a few times. Commit to finding one to regularly attend.
- Minimize the "people distraction" by reading Matthew 7:1-5 before the next church meeting that you attend. We all have enough of our own stuff that needs correcting.
- Talk with a pastor about some of your thoughts and ideas, and find ways you might better understand what your church is trying to accomplish and how you can help.
- You learn to love the things that you serve. Healthy churches are places to learn to serve others. Do something outside of your comfort zone to serve someone else, today!

ON YOUR OWN...

1 Timothy 3:15
Matthew 16:18
Ephesians 2:19-22
Acts 2:42-47
Hebrews 10:24-25