

If My People...

Part Three - The Essential Nature of the Church

God's promise to heal our land depends on the essential nature of a repentant church.

2 Chronicles 7:14

...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

We cannot expect the world to consider the church essential if we don't.

Proverbs 23:7

For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.

Matthew 27:21-23

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord!' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the person who does what my Father in heaven wants. 22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name? Didn't we force out demons and do many miracles by the power and authority of your name?' 23 Then I will tell them publicly, 'I've never known you. Get away from me, you evil people.'"

Signs That We See the Church as Essential

1. We attend the church.

Hebrews 10:25

And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

2. We support the church.

Malachi 3:8-10

Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you ask, 'How do we rob You?' In tithes and offerings. 9 You are cursed with a curse, yet you - the whole nation - are still robbing Me. 10 Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house.

3. We serve in the church.

1 Peter 4:10

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

4. We invite people to church.

Luke 14:23

“Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full.’”

5. We connect within the church.**Acts 2:46-47**

Day after day they met as a group in the Temple, and they had their meals together in their homes, eating with glad and humble hearts, 47 praising God, and enjoying the good will of all the people. And every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.

Recognizing the essential nature of the church is the difference between the sheep and the goats.**Matthew 25:31-33**

“But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne.³² All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.³³ He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left.”