

The Church Now Wants (Part 2)

Text: Rev. 3: 7-13

Intro

1. In his book, The Body, Chuck Keeler makes some actual observations about the church in the U.S. today.
 - 1) While the church may seem to be experiencing a season of growth + prosperity, it is failing to move people to commitment + prosperity.
 - 2) The hard truth is that we have substituted an institutionalized religion for the life giving dynamic of a living faith.
 - 3) For most of us the church is the building where we are able to worship.
 - (1) Its minutes are the program we plan.
 - (2) " mission is to meet the needs of members.
 - (3) " ~~clergy~~ servants are the professional clergy we hire to shepherd us.
 - 4) ~~The~~ Church's growth has come to refer to such things as location, marketing, architecture, programs + head counts rather than growth + development into mature, living church.

2. He, then, corroborates these statements with research done by George Barna which asked a population of pastors → How would Christ rate the church if he were to return today? Managers
- 1) Less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% → highly effective.
 - 2) 43% → respectable.
 - 3) 53% → find church having little impact on souls + society.
3. By the same token ~~Robert Bellah~~ ^{Robert Bellah} ~~the church~~.
- 1) ~~81%~~ 81% of Americans say ^{the church} ~~convinced~~ at their own religious views, without (Robert Bellah)
 - 2) George Gallup → almost half of the country attends church services → only 6 to 10% of all Americans are what he terms "highly spiritual."
- ~~3. 6 points~~
4. Bottom line → Coleox says → Church is in an identity crisis.
5. Some kind of recovery yet from apostasy in Rev. 3: → gives overview of church history.
- 1) Review 7 churches
 - 2) ~~Lefts~~ Emphases Lockwood.
6. But what level of church does God really want?

7. Read the Bible - → God wants -

1) Church of authority → Matt 16:18 / Lk 10:18, 19.

2) Church of organic unity - Eph 5:30-32

(1) Eph 5:30 → we are members of his body.

(2) (31) → For this reason a man will leave his father + mother + be united to his wife → + the two will become one flesh.

(3) (32) → This is a profound mystery → but I am talking about Christ + the church.

3) Church of ^{evangelical} influence → Matt 5:13, 14.

4) Church of strength/force → Eph 12-21

5) Church of enlightened individualism → Eph 1:15-23.

excluded
1 Cor 2:9-11
1 Cor 12:13

Lk 17:21
1 Cor 14:17
1 Cor 15:25
#

virtuous
Eph 1:15-23

8. Wonderful! How come to that?

1) Luke 11:28 → Does → what is Word →

Ill: Telling The Truth / Just Preaching

2) Ill: Matter of interpretation - Joe Turner

9. Turn to Rev. 3 → Church at Philadelphia → renewal church.

10. Step One → Fulfilled great command