

That's MY
church!



INTRODUCTION

That's MY Church! = Loving being the kind of church we are supposed to be . . . in our day and in our land.



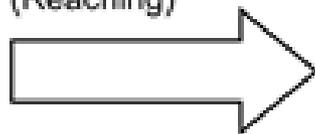
INTRODUCTION

Making Disciples

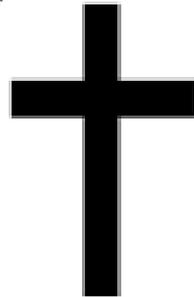
— OF JESUS CHRIST —
for the glory of God

Introducing

(Reaching)



- Go therefore
- Baptizing them



Instructing

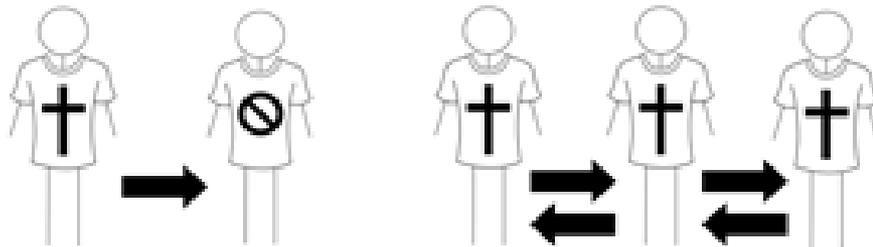
(Teaching)



- Teaching them to observe all that I commanded you

BOTH:

- Of all nations
- And lo, I am with you always



7 CHARACTERISTICS

1. **That's MY church . . . because we understand what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.**
2. **That's MY church . . . because we understand that making disciples is everyone's (joyful) responsibility.**



7 CHARACTERISTICS

3. That's MY church . . . because we strive to keep the Bible prominent in all areas of the life of the church.



We affirm the Bible's . . .

- Sufficiency
- Clarity
- Authority
- Necessity



Therefore . . .

- We read the Bible.
- We sing the Bible.
- We preach the Bible.
- We trust and obey the Bible.



We experience the rewards . . .

1. God's Word makes us like thriving trees.

Psalm 1:2-3 - But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. [3] He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.



We experience the rewards . . .

2. God's Word puts us back together on the inside.

Psalm 19:7 – The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul.



We experience the rewards . . .

3. God's Word makes us wise.

Psalm 19:7 – The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.



We experience the rewards . . .

4. God's Word gives us joy on the inside.

Psalm 19:8 – The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart.



We experience the rewards . . .

5. God's Word helps us see clearly.

Psalm 19:8 – The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.



We experience the rewards . . .

6. God's Word is sweet and satisfying.

Psalm 19:10 – They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.



We experience the rewards . . .

7. God's Word is our life-preserver.

Psalm 119:92 – If your law had not been my delight, then I would have perished in my affliction.



We experience the rewards . . .

8. God's Word gives us direction.

Psalm 119:105 – Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.



We experience the rewards . . .

9. God's Word makes us like a house built on a strong foundation.

Matt. 7:24–25 – Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house upon the rock . . . it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.



We experience the rewards . . .

10. God's Word progressively makes us holy – steadily conforming us to the image of our Lord and Savior.

*John 17:17 – Sanctify them in the truth;
Your word is truth.*



We experience the rewards . . .

10. God's Word progressively makes us holy – steadily conforming us to the image of our Lord and Savior.

II Cor. 3:18 – But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.



MARTIN LUTHER

“The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me.”



APPLICATIONS

1. “Read your Bible, pray every day” is not just necessary for personal Christian growth and joy, but it is essential for the health and proper functioning of the entire body!



APPLICATIONS

2. Because we endeavor to hold to a high view of Scripture, we are not afraid of the inevitable conflicts that arise from faithfully reading, affirming and obeying God's Word. This makes for a church that is **courageous** and **unafraid**.



APPLICATIONS

3. Because we endeavor to hold to a high view of Scripture, we mutually and consistently submit to the authority of Scripture that guides our together walk. This makes for a church that is humble, unified and happy.



7 CHARACTERISTICS

4. That's MY church . . . because we delight in and emphasize the central message of the Bible – the gospel of Jesus Christ. In doing so, we joyfully experience the ongoing transformation of the grace of God.



TITUS 2:11-15

[11] For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, [12] instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, [13] looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, [14] who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. [15] These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.



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