

To-Do in 2025: Profile of a Healthy Church

Key Scriptures:

Ephesians 4:1-7, 15-16 I, therefore, the prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live worthily of the calling with which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you too were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Psalms 19:7-11 The law of the LORD is perfect and preserves one's life. The rules set down by the LORD are reliable and impart wisdom to the inexperienced.

⁸ The LORD's precepts are fair and make one joyful. The LORD's commands are pure and give insight for life. ⁹ The commands to fear the LORD are right and endure forever. The judgments given by the LORD are trustworthy and absolutely just. ¹⁰ They are of greater value than gold, than even a great amount of pure gold; they bring greater delight than honey, than even the sweetest honey from a honeycomb. ¹¹ Yes, your servant finds moral guidance there; those who obey them receive a rich reward.

Hebrews 10:23-25 ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Key Point: A healthy church is God's plan for communion with Him and community with others.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- What are the signs of a healthy family? An unhealthy one?

Reflect, Think, & Share: Read through the key scriptures and share any observations or questions with the group.

Profile of a healthy church

1. Love and participate in biblical community (Eph 4, Heb 10:23-25)
2. Value the Bible as the ultimate authority (2 Tim 3:16-17, 1 Peter 1:20-21)
3. Pursue Jesus as their ultimate treasure (Romans 12:1-2)
4. Pursue holiness (Heb 12:10-14)
5. Take the responsibility of Christian freedom seriously (Rom 14)
6. Use the resources given them to God's glory (Eph 4:15-16)
7. Be willing to engage/be engaged over sin (1Cor 5:9-13, Heb 3:13)
8. When we fail, quick to confess and repent (James 5:16)

- Of the eight profiles listed on Sunday, which do you personally think needs more attention in your life? In the church?
- In Ephesians 4:2, the Greek word "to bear" means to exercise self-restraint, to tolerate and patiently put up with other people. How does understanding this call to bear with one another change your perspective on what it means to love other believers?
- In Ephesians 4:15-16, why does Paul connect speaking the truth in love with how body parts nourish other body parts?
- What does it mean for the Bible to be the ultimate authority in your life? What benefits does Psalm 19 list for the person who holds the word of God as his/her authority in life?
- How do you balance the seriousness of holiness with creating an environment where people feel safe to admit struggles and grow?
- How can we cultivate an environment where confession, repentance, and accountability are normal and celebrated?

Start doing: Protect the unity of our church by acting in love toward other members, by refusing to gossip, and by following the leaders. Share the responsibility by praying for its growth, and by inviting others to attend. Serve the ministry of our church by discovering your gifts and talents, by being equipped to serve and by developing a servant's heart. Support the testimony of our church by attending faithfully, by living a godly life, and by giving regularly.

Prayer Requests. Take some time to pray together. Use the key scriptures as a guide in praying the scriptures back to God.

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