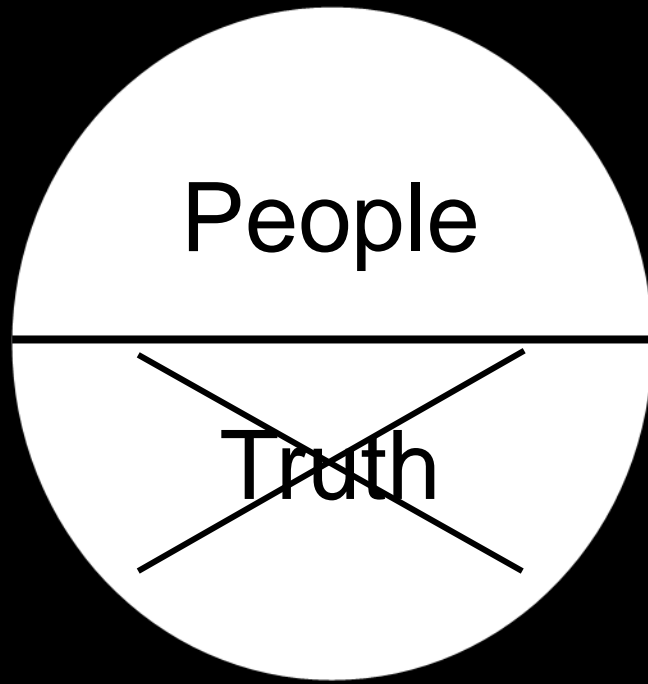
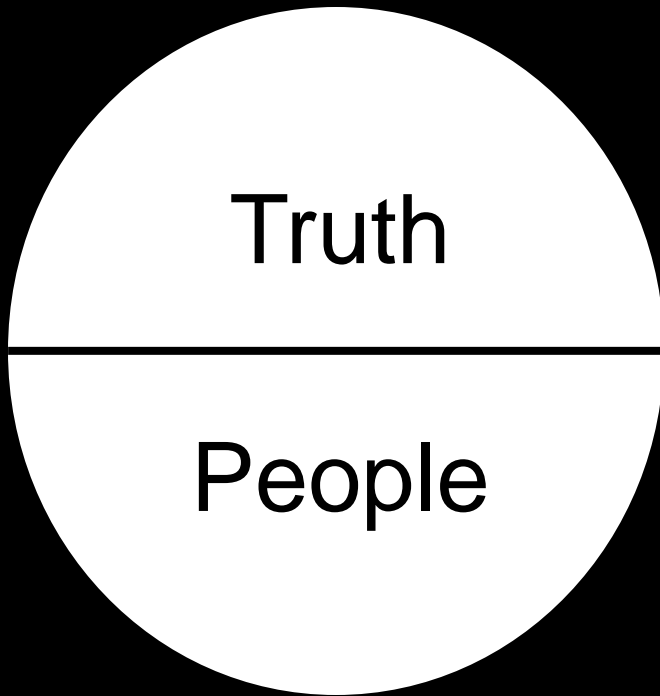


The Ideal Church

(Ephesians 4)



Restoring NT church:

where there are people, there are problems

What about Corinth? ...Laodicea? ...

U.S.
Family
Church

“Restore” NT church?

NT: “ideal”

Hb.10:32-34

Rv.2:4-5

Ep.4:1-16

1: Walk worthy of the calling...

- *Prisoner*
- *...of the Lord: prison epistle (3:1; 4:1; 6:20)*
- *Walk worthy: “to balance”*
- *...of your calling: in harmony with...*



“Highest calling
demands
highest conduct”

Characteristics of The Ideal Church

I. Members show proper
attitudes toward one another

Four words (v.2)

- Lowliness – humility, modesty. (Ro.12:3)

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

Ph.2:5, Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus ... 8, And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross

Four words (v.2)

- Gentleness – quality of not being overly impressed by a sense of one’s self-importance; gentleness, humility, courtesy, considerateness, meekness. (Nu.12).
Mt.21:5

“Tell the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.’ ”

Four words (v.2)

- Longsuffering – opposite of short-tempered, irritability. Patience under provocation. Loving the unlovable. 2 Pt.3:9, 15

⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. ... ¹⁵ and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you

Four words (v.2)

- Bearing with one another – Have patience with; endure; put up with. Opposite of nit-picking, fault-finding, anger. Ro.2:4

Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

Characteristics of The Ideal Church

I. Members Show Proper Attitudes Toward One Another

II. Members Manifest Unity
of the Spirit

Unity takes work (v.3)

- Endeavoring: hurry, hasten, make every effort
- Anyone can divide, cause trouble...
- Seven unifying factors: ONE

body

Spirit

hope

Lord

faith

baptism

1 Co.1:10-12

God

1 Co.12:13

Characteristics of The Ideal Church

I. Members Show Proper Attitudes Toward One Another

II. Members Manifest Unity of the Spirit

III. Members Manifest Grace of
God Through Gifts He Gave

Ephesians 4

⁷ But to each one of us grace was **given** according to the measure of Christ's **gift**.

⁸ Therefore He says:

“When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And **gave gifts** to men.”

[9-10]

¹¹ And He Himself **gave** some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers

Ascension of Christ (v.8-10)

1. Led captivity captive

– Jgs.5; Ps.68:18; Lk.4:18

2. Gave gifts to men (main point)

11: He gave . . .

1. Apostles. Lk.16:29-31

2. Prophets. 1 Co.13:8

3. Evangelists. 2 Tim.4:5

4. Pastors. Shepherds, 1 Pt.5:2

5. Teachers. 1 Co.12:28

Characteristics of The Ideal Church

I. Members Show Proper Attitudes Toward One Another

II. Members Manifest Unity of the Spirit

III. Members Manifest Grace of God Through Gifts...

IV. Manifest True Spiritual Growth

Purpose of the gifts (v.12)



What does spiritual growth produce?

(13-16) –

- Unity of the faith (13)
- Knowledge, maturity
- Perfect man
- Stability (14)
- Christ-likeness (15)
- Edification (16)
 - **Joined.** Architectural term. Building, many parts framed together...
 - **Knit together.** Joined; many become one

Three giant apostasies

1. Roman Catholicism
2. Missionary society / mechanical music
3. Institutionalism

If all heed Ep.4, we will never divide