

Church Rhythm 2

The Rhythm of Purposeful Involvement

[Phl 2:2 ESV] 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

I. Intro

- A. Church Rhythm: A gathering of believers in strong, regular, and repeated pattern following Christ's example.
- B. A church in rhythm will follow Christ and model life after Him.
 1. We model Christ in a strong and regular pattern
 2. This pattern is to be repeated throughout life
- C. A church out of rhythm will develop a "ME" centered version that looks similar, but has a very different purpose.
- D. Illustration: Rhythm Guitar vs. lead guitar
 1. When strumming, you put lots of notes into play that work together
 2. When playing lead, you pluck individual notes that are separate: these don't work well if that's all you have, you need the rhythm.
 3. Rhythm guitar is notes being played, combined with strumming pattern, that creates rhythm (rhythm and blues?)

II. Text

- A. Being in full accord and of one mind:
 1. Literal interpretation: United in Spirit intent on one purpose
 2. Purposeful Involvement gives us renewed and directed involvement in the church.
- B. Being in full accord
 1. Full: Complete
 2. Accord: Given or Granted Power, in full agreement
 3. Purposeful and complete agreement promotes involvement that is honoring to the Lord.
- C. One Mind:
 1. The mind of Christ is our challenge and mandate
 2. We are to be of one mind:
 - a) Single minded:
 - (1) the cause of Christ is such that there is no room for diversion
 - (2) The cause of Christ is such that believers are united in purpose and goals
 - (3) We are going to glorify God and make much of Jesus
 - b) Multiplied in task
 - (1) Single minded does not mean that everyone thinks the same
 - (2) We should use our individual gifts to multiply resources and effectiveness

III. Point

- A. What the Church is Not:
 1. The Church is not a consumer based entity: That's a store
 2. The Church is not only an educational institution: that's a school
 3. Bad Church Illustrations:
 - a) Gas Station: Where we go to get filled up
 - b) Movie Theater: Where we get entertained
 - c) Drug Store: Where we fill prescriptions to get rid of the pain
 - d) Retail store: where we find the best stuff for our family
 4. All are distortions because they are all about "ME" and the body of Christ is all about HIM.
 5. "THE CHURCH" does not exist to meet your needs, but to accomplish the mission of Christ.
 - a) You will find that needs are met that you didn't know you needed
 - b) You will also see that the meeting of the need is also glorifying to God.

6. The problem: Our natural bent is to make everything about us, and to filter it through the lens of self.
- B. What the Church is:
 1. The Church is the Body of Christ, we are a body intended to function as a body.
 2. Things to know about the church as the body:
 - a) A Body has one head, Jesus is the head of the church
 - b) The Body of Christ must follow the leadership of Christ
 - c) The Body of Christ must suffer with Christ, The Body of Christ will have scars

[Jhn 15:18-21 ESV] 18 "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. 21 But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.

- d) The Body of Christ will be glorified: When Christ is glorified, the church is glorified, and vice versa.

[Rom 8:29-32 ESV] 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

3. The Church is FOR God:
 - a) We shall not forget this and put man back at the center
 - b) When we look to the church as to only meet our needs or to bless us, we are misguided and already sliding down that slippery slope.
- C. Why do we get Purposefully Involved:
 1. Physical Involvement
 - a) The Body of Christ needs you to be physically present and connected
 - b) The effectiveness of the church cannot be virtual only
 - c) Illustration: Virtual Church
 - (1) Watching church on live stream...
 - (2) Listening to podcasts
 - (3) Radio programs
 - (4) These are all good things, but never replace the physical involvement required of the body.
 - (5) I'll never forget the emotional response of many folks after being in covid lockdown and then coming back to church for the first time...we lost a lot, but the sweet fellowship is still available and powerful.
 2. Spiritual Involvement
 - a) To be physically here is important, but to be spiritual present is equally significant.
 - b) Spiritual involvement is vital to the mission of the church
 - c) Civic organizations:
 - (1) I'm so thankful for civic organizations that do good and help people
 - (2) I'm thankful for people that give and serve our community
 - (3) But the church is more than a civic organization or a business
 - (4) There is a spiritual connection we must have, and we must practice
 - (5) Without the Spirit, we just have an organization, not a church.
 - d) The Rhythm of Spiritual Connections:

- (1) Can be seen in making decisions:
 - (a) Prayer is the first step
 - (b) Hearing from God
 - (c) Acting on the direction from God
- (2) Can be seen when there is a need:
 - (a) Believers rally around when there is one hurting
 - (b) Believers in rhythm spiritually will run to the challenge rather than hide from it.

IV. Close

- A. What is your strong, regular, repeated pattern?
- B. What is your example to the world of what a christian's involvement in church?