

## The Magnetism of the Church

Eph. 2:17-22/Acts 20:27-32/Heb. 10:23-26

Upon learning of the breakdown and pending divorce of one of his employees he wasted no time in expressing to the distraught husband and father, "I want to encourage you to become a part of a church where you can see a model of what a marriage and family is about and where you will experience encouragement and direction as you build your life into what God planned for you."

Sounds like pretty solid counsel, doesn't it? The boldness of the employer did not come out of a vacuum; he *knew* the one who was under his influence. Over time (though not much) he had developed a relationship and trust. Having said that, where would that person go to find such a model from which to learn and experience the transformation? What if that person, and perhaps his family, were sitting next to you? How confident would you be in suggesting that person would see and experience the model of Christ's church right here? What if you were the first person to meet this husband, wife, and family? Do you feel confident and prepared enough to become that example, encourager, or even a mentor to this family?

More and more we are hearing the need for a trusted model, an example, a real working template of the original perfect standard to which we can look with confidence. What we're talking about is that which is so lacking in our culture, the model of excellence from which we build and shape every area of our lives. Again, what we are defining is God's intent for the church.

In the mix, we are not talking about a 1½ hour per week *fix it and feel better about myself* time. This model includes fail-safe direction from the authority of God's own Word and a partnership with others toward application and transformation. This is the church as defined and witnessed in the New Testament. Her identity was of such a nature that she served as a magnet to every segment of society. The church grew by leaps and bounds as it became the force that changed history.

How would that employee and his family see us? You? Me? Would they be drawn to Christ's model by that same magnetism?

For the past three weeks we have been talking about the mysterious transforming power of the love of God, our love for Christ, and what it means to truly follow Him. Today we will summarize in three bite-size chunks just what it is that makes the church so irresistible. Pray that we, you, and I be that church.

### LIFE RESPONSE

1. This week MEMORIZE and MEDITATE on Hebrews 10:23-25 "*Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.*"
  - (a) OK, so this *is* the longest passage we have had to the Life Response; go for it. Write it out on a card, use it as your computer screensaver, and simply meditate on it . . . it will come.
  - (b) Note the cause/effect of this passage (see context 19-25). Define the natural response of one who has truly experienced salvation in Christ. (Note 10:26)

2. Write out the sequence or chronology of this passage from Heb. 10:19-25. What significance does it have in defining in a fresh way what our church should be about?
3. Imagine for a moment (perhaps the rest of your life) the impact you could have on your family, Care Group, Cell group, Mini Church if Heb. 10:23-26 became your identity.
4. Who are those within your sphere of influence (in the church or those looking for the model) whom you can encourage and stimulate to the model of Christ and His “family”?

*“...every member of the body of Christ is important. In a sense, every member is a leader, called of God to help other members of the body to grow and mature. Every “joint” must function and every “individual part” is to make its contribution to the life of the church.”*

- Dr. Gene Getz

3 WORDS

- FAMILY
- DIRECTION
- ENCOURAGEMENT

**THE ORDAINED FAMILY: THE CHURCH**

Basic to social structure	Eph. 2:13-22
One new man	
One body	
Household	
A Holy Temple	A patriarchal society was as basic as the family itself.
Family	
Flock	
Marriage	
Bride	
Brethren	

Basic DNA	Eph 2:1-3 / 4-10
John 1:12	
... Child of God	
... Adopted as sons	

**THE ORDERED DIRECTION:**

Anytime people discover “FAMILY” as God intended, it will grow by leaps and bounds. How is Family/Intimacy maintained?

The Template

Ex. 18:17-23	
10	
50	50
100	100
1000	1000

2 Tim 2:2	
Me	
You	You
Faithful	Faithful
Others	Others

The Leadership

Able men / fear God      1 Tim. 3 / Titus 1  
Integrity                      20 Qualities

Acts 20:28-32      (Heb. 13:17) . . . keep watch over your souls  
Leader: Held accountable by God

1 Thess. 2:4-12

John 10:10-28

**THE OBSERVABLE ENCOURAGEMENT:**

1 Peter 2:11-12

Two Questions:

- (A) What do others observe about my relationships (all) that would “WOW!” them to Christ?
- (B) What do others observe that would cause them to say, “You’re no different than anyone else!”

The Original:      Heb. 10:23-26 / Eph. 4:14-16  
vs 23      focus on the standard

vs 24      Initiative              consider  
            Incite                      provoke  
            Investment              love/good deeds

vs 25      Togetherness / support  
            ENCOURAGEMENT  
            In anticipation

The Observable:

It’s a natural expression of WHO we love.

DO YOU LOVE ME?