

WHY CHURCH MATTERS #1: TITUS 1:1-4 WHAT MAKES A GOOD CHURCH

I travel so much I have dialed in preferences for Hotels and Restaurants.

Why did the churchgoer bring a Yelp review form to Sunday service? Because last week the **music was too loud, the sermon too quiet, the lights too bright, the coffee too strong. A church put up a sign that said: "Come as you are!"** But one visitor showed up in flip-flops, a coffee in hand, and requested acoustic worship, a gluten-free communion, and a 17-minute message. The usher smiled and said, *"We said come as you are — not come as your Pinterest."* **Denver churches everywhere. Huge. Some most well-known Good churches**

- Xians everywhere but searching. Unhappy. Preferences.

If your church experience is built around your preferences, don't be surprised if it produces no transformation.

- **Don't make your preferences your priority** - WHAT MAKES GOOD C

MP: A good church matters because salvation isn't just personal—it's communal. You were saved into the family of God, where faith is formed and mission is fulfilled together.

Disciple, know God, worship, pray, experience spiritual gifts, C/B, serving, suffering, generosity, mission, friendship. NOT INTENDED TO BE PRIVATE OR PRIVATIZED

PAUL'S PURPOSE: Not just church planter. Framed the constellation of essentials TITUS 4 ESS: gospel-centered, Bible-teaching, Spirit-transformed, and hope-giving.

GOSPEL CENTERED COMMUNITY - THE FAITH OF THE ELECT

In a gospel-centered church: The gospel **defines identity** (Galatians 2:20) - **Reorients desires** (Philippians 3:7–9) And **drives mission** (Matthew 28:19–20).

- P starts gospel bc everything starts. Not entertain, coddle, conform to culture

Gospel: The gospel is the good news that Jesus Christ has redeemed humanity through His life, death, and resurrection—offering God's Kingdom to all who repent, believe, and follow Him, with transformation now and hope forever.

- WEST: churches tempted to be *preference-driven* rather gospel-driven.
- Preference or prosperity, churches stop forming disciples and start entertaining. WATER DOWN **cross-less Christianity can't save or sanctify.**
 - o RECENTER on Christ crucified and risen (1 Corinthians 15:1–4).

Gospel-centered churches do not cater to comfort; they confront sin, call for repentance, and offer grace.

- **PREACH IT. CENTER EVERYTHING AROUND.** Teaching. Youth. Groups. Mission

Acts 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

2 Timothy 4:1 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: ²preach the word.

The gospel hasn't come to meet our preference, it comes to reshape our priorities.

Church isn't about me-centered customization; it's about Christ-centered, gospel-fueled community.

Church isn't a collection of perfect people, it's a community centered on a perfect Savior.

BIBLE TEACHING COMMUNITY - KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH

We're not building our lives on opinions or TikTok clips or motivational speeches. We are building on the unshakable foundation of God's Word.

- Paul links gospel faith to a deep, transformative "knowledge of the truth."
- Truth isn't abstract—it's embodied in Jesus (John 14:6),

IT Sanctifies: John 17:17 Sanctify them by your truth, your word is truth.

IT Matures Bel: Ephesians 4:11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.

A good church creates a culture where knowing God and His truth is a priority.

CHURCHES TODAY NEED TO DOUBLE DOWN ON BIBLE TEACHING THAT IS - 6

- **Doctrinally sound** – grounded in confessional orthodoxy.
- **Faithful to the Scripture:** Teach the Bible in its whole context. NO DANCING
- **Spirit Empowered:** Not dry, unempowered
- **Christ Revealing:** Good Bible teaching is always Christ-revealing.
- **Pastorally sensitive** – addressing the heart, not just the head.
- **Culturally aware** – speaking into current issues (e.g., identity, sexuality, justice) without compromising Scripture.

Barna LWay reveal alarming levels of biblical illiteracy even among churchgoers. Many Christians can't articulate core doctrines like Trinity, substitutionary atonement, or justification.

If the Word isn't central, the church isn't biblical.

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

TRANSFORMATIONAL COMMUNITY

Christian theology cannot remain theoretical; it must produce holiness, love, and transformed lives. The indwelling Holy Spirit empowers this transformation

Christianity makes radical claims that need to be backed up w/radical outcomes.

- Through the gospel Heaven and earth have interlocked IN PERSON OF CHRIST
Joy in suffering, live for eternity, assurance instead of fear, peace instead of anxiety, love instead of indifference or hate, unity in diversity, FREEDOM

- Testimony: This room is full of stories. WE DON'T LOOK LIKE WE USED TO
 - o KELLER CONTRAST COMMUNITY

L COM: 3 GUYS. PRISON. BUSINESS OWNERS. LOVE GOD. LIVE THEIR LIVES SERVE HIM
NOT OLD WINE SKINS. NOT SHALLOW INSINCERITY. NOT DEAD RITUALISM

- EXP GOD flows from Bible teaching emphasizes dying to self/live to Spirit

Christianity doesn't offer a spiritual touch-up—it offers a total transformation.

HOPE GIVING COMMUNITY

A GOOD CHURCH IS ON MISSION TO BRING HOPE TO A BROKEN WORLD.

- We are a community of hope. BECAUSE GOD DWELLS AMONG US. KINGDOM NOW AND TO COME:

- People Need Hope: Pandemic fallout to political unrest to mental health crises, the modern church is surrounded by hopelessness.

The secular worldview offers no ultimate redemption, only the pressure to self-create, self-medicate, or self-destruct.

Matthew 5:14 You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Hope-giving churches remind people that God is faithful, Jesus is risen, and eternity is real. They speak prophetically into despair—not denying suffering but declaring that it's not the end. They anchor people in the promises of God and the sure return of Christ.