

PRINCIPLES FOR BEING CHRISTIAN AND DOING CHURCH
FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

The Meaning of the Church

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Principle One:

The church is fundamentally a community of faith whose primary business is spirituality with an understanding of worship as primary.

Who We Are Individually

From *Star Wars: Empire Strikes Back*, "Luminous beings are we, not this crude matter."

Mistakes we make in terms of primary category of self-definition

Race

Gender

Sexual preference

The State

Materialism

Religious or denominational affiliation

The fruit of our mistakes:

Sin:

Racism

Sexism, chauvinism, misguided machismo, aberrant feminism

Lifestyles that are not in agreement with Scripture

Ideology, demagoguery, colonialism, imperialism, war

Loss of perspective and humanity

Holy War, intolerance, misrepresentation of God

The Unholy Trinity:

Bitterness

Abuse

Low Self-esteem

The Lessons from Scripture:

Genesis 2:7

II Corinthians 4: 16-18

Who We Are as a Church

Community of Faith

Essence of faith is spiritual, Hebrews 11: 1

Lesson from Yoda, "What we believe determines what we can do."

And, "Either do or do not, there is no try."

Either we believe what we believe or we do not and when we believe we Act! We don't try.

Either we believe Philippians 4:13 or we do not. And when we believe it, we act!

We don't try.
Either we believe Malachi 3: 10 or we do not. And when we believe it, we Act!
We don't try.
Either we believe Matthew 17: 19-21 or we do not. And when we believe it, we Act!
We don't try.
Either we believe Romans 10: 9-10 or we do not. And when we believe it, we Act!
We don't try.
Either we believe James 4: 7 or we do not. And when we believe it, we Act!
We don't try.
Either we believe Luke 6: 38 or we do not. And when we believe it, we Act!
We don't try.

Church as community of faith as heterogeneous group of individuals who are bound together by faith in Jesus Christ as the Anointed Son of the Living God (Matthew 16: 13-19) and who act accordingly (who use their keys).

The Essence of Who God Is

John 4: 21-24

Since God is essentially spiritual, our spirituality more than anything connects with the essence of God

Worship is *in* spirit, not *with* spirit. Spirited worship can be full of flesh.

Worship is *in* spirit, not *with tradition*. Tradition can be bondage.

Worship is *in* spirit, not *in your way or my way*. Your way or my way can be comfortable, but also stunt growth.

True worship is worship *in* spirit. Holy Spirit reveals truth (John 16: 12-15)

Subjection of our "crude matter" in true worship connects us with the essence of who God is (Romans 12: 1-2)

Spirituality empowers us to do the work of the kingdom (Galatians 6: 1)

The destinies of our families and the next generation are in the hands of the Spiritual.

The destiny of our communities, our schools, and our nation is in the hands of the Spiritual.

The destiny of the church and the kingdom is in the hands of the Spiritual.

Therefore guard spirituality and worship

In our private lives

In our corporate life as a church

Guard them like a mother animal guards her young.

Guard them like misers guards money.

Guard them like a guard dog takes care of its charge

Guard them like God guards us, “For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the entire earth, to strengthen those whose heart is true to him.” (II Chronicles 16: 9)
Guard them like God guards and holds us--Psalm 139: 7--12.