

Words TO LIVE BY

Part 4: "Church"

Church is only society on earth that exists for the benefit of non-members.

~ *William Temple*

The Church exists for nothing else but to draw men into Christ, to make them little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the Bible itself, are simply a waste of time. God became Man for no other purpose.

~ *C.S. Lewis*

There can be no vulnerability without risk; there can be no community without vulnerability; there can be no peace, and ultimately no life, without community.

~ *M. Scott Peck*

"The Church says the Earth is flat. But I know that it is round. For I have seen the shadow on the Moon. And I have more faith in a shadow than in the Church."

~ *Magellan*

I still haven't found what I'm looking for.

~ *U2*

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to a garage makes you a car.

~ *Laurence J. Peter*

While the New Testament speaks often about churches, it is surprisingly silent about many matters that we associate with church structure and life. There is no mention of architecture, pulpits, lengths of typical sermons [or *sermons!*], rules for having a Sunday school. Little is said about style of music, order of worship, or times of church gatherings. There were no Bibles, denominations, camps, pastor's conferences, or board meeting minutes. Those who strive to be New Testament churches must seek to live its principles and absolutes, not reproduce the details.

~ *Leith Anderson*

We can get by for a while on size, skilled communication, and programs to meet every need, but unless we sense that we belong to each other, with masks off, the vibrant church of today will become the powerless church of tomorrow.

~ *Larry Crabb*

I would never belong to any group that would have someone like me as a member.

~ *Groucho Marx*

So what should we expect of a local congregation of disciples of Jesus. If we come at it from the viewpoint of New Testament realities – "principles and absolutes" – and the highest ideals of historic Christianity, we should expect it to be *a place where divine life and power is manifestly present to glorify God and meet the needs of repentant human beings*. This would imply an atmosphere of honesty, openness, indiscriminate acceptance of all, supernatural caring, with utter admiration for and confidence in Jesus.

~ *Dallas Willard*

"I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

~ *Jesus*