

June 5, 2011

“My Attitude Toward the Church”

We conclude our sermon series this week by looking at and remembering that our attitude toward the Church says a lot about faith and life.

May 8 - June 5, 2011

What is the church? Is it a building, is it people, is it a family; or all of these and maybe more? Let us seek to uncover and discover with biblical insight the nature, makeup, and purpose of the church, as it developed in history past and seeks to maintain its place in lives and our world today.

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• Colossians 1:3-14

³⁻⁵Our prayers for you are always spilling over into thanksgivings. We can't quit thanking God our Father and Jesus our Messiah for you! We keep getting reports on your steady faith in Christ, our Jesus, and the love you continuously extend to all Christians. The lines of purpose in your lives never grow slack, tightly tied as they are to your future in heaven, kept taut by hope.

⁵⁻⁸The Message is as true among you today as when you first heard it. It doesn't diminish or weaken over time. It's the same all over the world. The Message bears fruit and gets larger and stronger, just as it has in you. From the very first day you heard and recognized the truth of what God is doing, you've been hungry for more. It's as vigorous in you now as when you learned it from our friend and close associate Epaphras. He is one reliable worker for Christ! I could always depend on him. He's the one who told us how thoroughly love had been worked into your lives by the Spirit.

⁹⁻¹²Be assured that from the first day we heard of you, we haven't stopped praying for you, asking God to give you wise minds and spirits attuned to his will, and so acquire a thorough understanding of the ways in which God works. We pray that you'll live well for the Master, making him proud of you as you work hard in his orchard. As you learn more and more how God works, you will learn how to do your work. We pray that you'll have the strength to stick it out over the long haul—not the grim strength of gritting your teeth but the glory-strength God gives. It is strength that endures the unendurable and spills over into joy, thanking the Father who makes us strong enough to take part in everything bright and beautiful that he has for us.

¹³⁻¹⁴God rescued us from dead-end alleys and dark dungeons. He's set us up in the kingdom of the Son he loves so much, the Son who got us out of the pit we were in, got rid of the sins we were doomed to keep repeating.

- **1 John 4:7-16**

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because

God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

¹³ This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

Be thinking about Church [the people] and the church [the building] and how you fit in, how you can help your church and God's plan for your life.

**Check out my blog post this week for some
“timely” advice.**

<http://www.LakeMillsGrow.blogspot.com>

Preaching Points for June 5, 2011

WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE CHURCH?

- a) *It better be there for me when I need it or else!*
- b) *The Church is for sissies; don't waste your time there!*
- c) *Who needs the church? I am better off on my own!*
- d) *The Church is my second home. I can always count on it!*
- e) *My Church is the place where I am needed and I can share my talents!*
- f) *The church is that place that has special loving and faith-filled Christians.*
- g) *My Church is where I find hope when life feels hopeless! Thank God for my Church!*

Paul the early church leader and teacher had a great attitude toward the church that we are well advised to copy. In his writings to the churches he exemplifies this attitude.

✓ **I'm thankful for the Church's FAITH –**

Colossians 1:4–*“We can't quit thanking God our Father and Jesus our Messiah for you! We keep getting reports on your steady faith in Christ, our Jesus, and the love you continuously extend to all Christians.”* The Apostle Paul kept hearing of their faith. As I listen around, I keep hearing of your faith too. How nice to be in a Church Family that has a faith alive and well. Well done people of God!

✓ **I'm thankful for the Church's HOPE –**

Colossians 1:5 –*“The faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel.”* Paul knew that hope was more than wishful thinking; it was that essential certainty that brought forth their faith and love for God and for each other. You too at Lake Mills UMC are a people of hope. If it wasn't for your hope I would not be here today as your pastor and you would not have accomplished so many wonderful works and projects to date. Your hope is alive in this place and that is what makes you all such a lively and healthy family. Well done people of God!

✓ **I'm thankful for the Church's LOVE –**

Colossians 1:4-*"and of the love you have for all God's people"* & 1 John 4:16-*"God is love and those who live in love live in God."* Paul knew that love is what wraps up and holds the Church Family together. I see your love every time you walk thru our doors, when you gather for worship, when you pray for each other, when you smile, share a cup of coffee and when you live as the great people God has created you to be.

✓

My attitude toward the Church and toward our Church?

God has gifted us with each other and has drawn us together for a special purpose with a plan. There is nothing greater than our Faith, Hope & Love! God bless us all every day!

Insightful movies on my blog this week about the Church

<http://www.lakemillsgrow.blogspot.com>