

Church of God, Awake, Arise

The Church's "Identity"

- Know who you are "In Christ"
 - "In Christ" - found 129 x in NT
 - Mt 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.
19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.
- Know who you are "In the body of Christ"
 - The relationship between "in Christ" and "in the body of Christ".
 - 1Jo 4:20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?
- Know who you are in relation to the world about you.
 - The Good Samaritan
 - Lu 10:33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him,
34 And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.
 - The Church's most powerful weapon is "Love"
 - Joh 13:35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.
 - "We don't care how much you know, until we know how much you care"
 - 1Co 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.
2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.
3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

The Church as a “Presence”

- Mt13:33 Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.
 - Pockets of near total secularization
 - Urban centers
 - Academia
 - The fact that academia rages against the truth in the name of tolerance or relativism is proof positive that the influence of the church is yet alive and well.
If the church is the archaic and obsolete religion that they make her out to be, all they would need to do is ignore her and she would lie down in the dust bin of history.
 - The silent witness
 - Historically the “quiet in the land”
 - Mt 5:13 Ye are the salt of the earth:
 - Salt is a preserving influence
 - Mt 5:14 Ye are the light of the world
 - Light dispels darkness
 - The subtle influence of the Church
 - Prayer
 - 1Ti 2:1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;
 - 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.
 - 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;
 - Moral Integrity
 - The church provides a moral anchor for society
 - Stability
 - Heb 12:26 Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.
 - 27 And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

The Church as a “Voice”

- The message
 - A message of hope
 - As opposed to a message of condemnation
 - Joh 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.
- The Word preached
 - Ro 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
 - Revival is sustained by faithful, consistent preaching of the word.
 - Revival is sustained by “the word of their testimony”.
 - We need to be developing our personal story of redemption.
- From mass evangelism to personal discipleship
 - CAM Billboard Evangelism
 - Compassionate counseling

Crossing the cultural barriers

- Jesus and the Samaritan woman.
 - He crossed a political barrier
 - He crossed a gender barrier
 - He crossed a religious barrier
 - With these words,
“Give me to drink?”
- Are cultural barriers real?
 - Or are they a figment of our imagination?

The Church as a “Person”

- Becoming the hands and feet of Christ
 - 1Co 12:27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.
 - Alleviating the suffering that comes from sin.
 - Mt 10:7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.
8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.
 - Mt 25:31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:
32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:
33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.
34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:
35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:
36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.
37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?
38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?
39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?
40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.
- We need to be providing:
 - Care for our elderly
 - Homes for abused girls
 - Medical clinics that provide compassionate care.
 - Hospice centers
 - Homeless shelters
 - Retreats for battered wives
 - Care for the vulnerable among us- the children.
 - Care for the physically handicapped
 - Care for the blind
 - Ministry for those with addictions