

We're In This Thing Together: Lay and Clergy Working Together to Build God's Kingdom

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What is the Purpose of the Church?

- To Worship God
- Study God's Word
- Pray
- Love one another
- Help each other
- Partake in baptism and the Lord's Supper
- Learn how to live
- To be equipped to do ministry and evangelize

What is the purpose of the AME Church?

- Make available God's biblical principles
- Spread Christ's liberating gospel
- Provide continuing programs which will enhance the entire social development of ALL people

What is the purpose of the Lay Organization?

- Organize and train the laity
- Use abilities and skills to improve the kingdom
- Create peace and harmony among its members

What is the purpose of clergy?

- Ephesians 4: 11-12 – “And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

HOW ARE WE ALL IN IT TOGETHER?

- Ephesians 4: 13 – “Until we ALL attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature person, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.”

THEN

- Ephesians 4:14 – “Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming”.

AND

- Ephesians 4:15 – “Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.”

DISCIPLING

- WE ARE TO WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST.
- BRING OUR GIFTS TO THE SPIRITUAL TABLE:
 - I Corinthians 12:6 – “We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.”
 - Prophesying
 - Serving
 - Teaching
 - Encouraging
 - Giving
 - Leading
 - Showing mercy

WHAT IMPACTS OUR WORKING TOGETHER

- We say we are a family and we have family issues:
 - Power
 - Money
 - Sex
 - Culture
 - History
 - Salvation or lack thereof

Why WE Should Work Together

Why Nobody Wants To Go To Church Anymore and
How 4 Acts of Love Will Make Your Church Irresistible
– Thom and Joani Schultz

- Over 350,00 churches in the US
 - Only some small churches (less than 200) and some large churches (more than 2,000) are growing. The churches in the middle are dwindling.
 - 90% of Americans say they believe in God but most don't attend church.
 - Fastest growing religious affiliation in the country is "none".

REASON FOR NON-CHURCH ATTENDANCE

- "I FEEL JUDGED"
 - Church is critical, disapproving, and condemning.
 - Church acts as a judge and jury over individual lives when addressing issues of:
 - Behavior
 - Looks
 - Clothes
 - Choice of friends
 - Lifestyle decisions

REASON FOR NON-CHURCH ATTENDANCE

- “I DON’T WANT TO BE LECTURED”
 - Seeking engaged conversation
 - Want to be able to share openly their doubts without condemnation
 - Want to be able to share their stories in a safe place without ridicule

REASON FOR NON-CHURCH ATTENDANCE

- “Church people are a bunch of hypocrites”
 - 85 % of people polled who are out of the church believe that we are hypocrites
 - People believe that the standards that are set are impossible to achieve because “we” act as if we have always been saved and no longer sin
 - People are looking for authenticity

REASON FOR NON-CHURCH ATTENDANCE

- “Your God is irrelevant to my life. But I’d like to know there is a God and he cares about me”
 - Want to be reassured that God is real
 - That God is more than an historical figure
 - That God is present today
 - That God is active in the lives of people around them

SO WHAT?

- If we are serious about seeing our church grow
- If we are serious about seeing our church survive
- If we are serious about doing what the Lord requires
- We cannot accomplish any of this in isolation.

WHO NEEDS WHO?

- WE
- NEED
- EACH
- OTHER

THAT'S ALL YA'LL

- QUESTIONS
- COMMENTS
- OBSERVATIONS
- TESTIMONIALS