### A church where relationships matter

John 17:23 I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

## A church focused on God's big story, while appreciating the little things we can do

Matthew 28:19 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

<sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Mark 9:41 I tell you the truth, anyone who gives you a cup of water <u>in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward.</u>

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# The Stumbling Dance of the Saints

Community #2
January 11, 2015

We exist to enjoy and share the love and message of God with everyone.

Do we really need church?

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

<sup>25</sup> Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

A church that hungers for truth that sets self-centered people free.

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

John 8:31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup> Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

<sup>35</sup> Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. <sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

#### God's truth:

- a. Truth that points to <u>hope</u> of what we can become in Christ.
- b. That's wrapped up in God's story of life.
- c. As <u>signposts</u>, not removing faith, humility, or wisdom.

# A church that understands the radical surgery necessary to make me like Christ.

Colossians 1:28 Him we proclaim, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man mature in Christ.

<sup>29</sup> For this I toil, striving with all the energy which he mightily inspires within me.

Galatians 4:19 My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, <sup>20</sup> how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you!

John 8:33 They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?" <sup>34</sup> Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.

"I pray with all my heart that I may be weary of everything else but... communion with Him." - John Owen

I want to be part of a church true to its theology regarding sin and growing in Christ.

- a. I am born with an addiction to pleasure.
- b. The more I'm addicted to feeling better now, the less I'll be driven to hunger and thirst for God as my primary motivation.
- c. On occasion, God "hides" Himself from me. Emptiness deepens a thirst for Him as I thirst for nothing else.
- d. When I feel confused about life, it becomes God's opportunity to draw me to Himself in humble trust. I naturally hate both humility and trusting anyone other than myself.
- e. I shouldn't be surprised by my bad moods. They reveal the raw material of my heart that still needs changing.

Psalms 51:17 The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.