What New Testament Church are You to Be?

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Not First Jerusalem Church

Church of the Bad Attitude
- Legalistic (Acts 15:10)
- Parochial (Acts 15:5)
- Two-faced (Gal. 2:12-13)
Not First Corinthian Church

Church of the Bad Behavior

- Squabbling over leadership (I Cor. 1:10-12)
- Acting like babies (I Cor. 3:1)
- Participating in sexual sins (I Cor. 5:1-2)
- Suing each other (I Cor. 6:4-6)
- Offending new Christians by eating unholy food (I Cor. 8)
- Worshipping false idols (I Cor. 10:7)
- Arguing with each other (I Cor. 11:18)
(Corinthians continued)

- Getting drunk at the Lord’s Supper (I Cor. 11:1)
- Exercising inferior spiritual gifts (I Cor. 14:16-19)
- Disorderly worship (I Cor. 14:26-39)
- Unforgiving spirit (II Cor. 5-9)
- Bad associations (II Cor. 2:14-16)
- Lack of generosity (II Cor. 8:7)
- Critical spirit (II Cor. 10:1)
- Deceived (II Cor. 11:1-3)
- Gossipy (II Cor. 13:1)
Not First Laodicean Church

Church of the Bad Judgment
- Arrogant (Rev. 3:17)
- Materialistic (Rev. 3:17)
- Passionless (Rev. 3:15-16)
Rather, the First Church of Antioch of Syria

The “Christian” Church

- A church that reaches out cross-culturally (Acts 11:20)
- A church that expresses God’s power (Acts 11:21)
- A church that disciples its converts (Acts 11:25-26)
- A church which defines Christ to the world (Acts 11:26)
- A church open to new God-sent messages (Acts 11:27-28)
A church which is compassionate and generous (Acts 11:29)

A church that balances future (“prophets: radical”) with the past (“teachers: conservative”) (Acts 13:1)

A church which is racially diverse (“Niger” [black], “Lucius” [Cyrenian], Greek, Latin and Jewish surnames) (Acts 13:1)

A church which is not class conscious [high class, “Manuen”, Saul] (Acts 13:1)

A church that prays and fasts (Acts 13:2-3)
(Antioch continued)

- A church that sends out missionaries (Acts 13:3)
- A church which defends itself from false doctrine (Acts 15:2)
- A church accountable to “denominational” headquarters (Jerusalem) (Acts 15:2)
- A church which is unified and encouraged (Acts 15:31)
- A church which preaches “Christ” (Acts 15:34-35)
A church that allows differing opinions (Acts 15:38)

A church that takes those opinions and doubles the mission (Acts 15:39)

A church that forgives and gives “second chances” (Acts 15:39)

A church that has leaders that can change and grow (2 Tim. 4:11)
Classic Tasks of the Church
as seen in First Church Antioch

1. **Worship**: unified giving of “worth” to God
   - Expresses God’s power
   - Open to new God-sent messages
   - Prays and fasts
Classic Tasks...

2. **Proclamation and Evangelism:**
   proclaiming the Gospel to non-believers
   - Reaches out cross-culturally
   - Expresses God’s power
   - Defines Christ to the world
   - Sends out missionaries
   - Preaches Christ
   - Uses differences to double the mission
3. **Discipleship**: nurturing people into spiritual maturity
   - Disciples its converts
   - Prays and fasts
   - Defends itself from false doctrine
   - Allows varying opinions
   - Allows leaders that can change and grow
4. **Fellowship**: the interaction between those of the community of faith

- Balances future with the past
- Is racially diverse
- Is not class conscious
- Is unified and encouraged
5. **Stewardship**: employing all available “resources” for God’s purposes

- Is compassionate and generous
- Sends out missionaries
- Is accountable to “denominational” headquarters (Jerusalem)
- Forgives and gives second chances
Classic tasks…

6. **Service**: serving the larger community with gestures of love and compassion

- Is compassionate and generous
Four Types of Urban Churches that are Growing (according to Ray Bakke)

1. Churches that Celebrate

- Joyous spirit
- wide use of gifts
- much music
- animated preaching
- sense of expectancy

- movement of Holy Spirit
- well-organized but open to spontaneity
- Christ centered
- multicultural
Four Types…

2. Churches that Care

- Small group accountability
- Seek personal “health” and completeness
- Examine gifts and offer opportunities to express them
- Built everyone into community
- Spirit of “family”
- Groups based around common interests, needs, dysfuncionalities
- Bible studies
- Prayer groups
Four Types…

3. Churches that Work

- Task-oriented
- Extensive programs of service and mission outside
- Members employ their professional skills
- Members do marketplace evangelism
- Members are empowered to take the church into the world
4. Churches that Remember

Liturgical churches that seek to:
- Take the best of the past
- Rework it into the contemporary
- In creative, simple, and meaningful ways

Many churches show evidences of combinations of these types.