

A few of my thoughts on the church

1 Corinthians 1:10

I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

Ephesians 4:3

Eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Psalms 133:1 ESV

How good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!

John 17:21

That they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

How can we, the church, be one?

-persecution

Or maybe reconciliation

What divides the church?

Disagreements on truth and even things like personality

This talk includes important things I believe the church can use to unite, but still allow for differences in opinion, and personality

Hebrews 10:25 Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have made a habit, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

I'm not sure when Jesus is coming back, maybe soon, maybe decades from now, or maybe centuries. However, why can I go to the grocery store 7 days a week, but church is only open 1?

I go to the gym, and one thing I like about my gym is it is all over the US,

Canada and even Europe, and all the locations are open to me 24 hours a day. It's convenient.

I dream of a church, located close to the multitudes of people and is available hours that are convenient for everyone.

I have quit a job before because there was no way possible to have Sunday morning off and I wanted to go to church. Some people will never except and invitation to church because Sunday morning just isn't the best time.

Some may say, why not an online church? Or house churches? I think those are good things, but I just want to walk into a church almost anytime, like I can walk into a Walmart.

I'll continue talking about what this church could look like in a bit, but, there is another problem in our society that I'd also like to talk about. Before the era of TV, I am pretty sure people talked to each other a lot more. For 4 months I lived with people without a TV and where it really wasn't too safe to go out after dark. So we chatted a lot. Then, someone bought a TV, and the chatting was reduced significantly. Now days things are worse, we don't even watch TV together, we all have our own devices, reducing face to face communication even more. As a result, people have bad relationships, extremism occurs, people feel isolated and in some circumstances this can even be linked to violence, drug use, porn addiction and other bad things in society.

So how can we work to fix these problems?

I think the church is a great place.

See centuries ago, people would go to church to listen to a sermon, then they would go home and talk about it, because without TV and the internet it gave them something to do. Today, we can access sermons anytime and it is a lot harder to find somewhere to talk about it. Sure, churches sometimes have small groups, but honestly, in my decades of attending such groups, they very often feel like a waste of time.

Another issue we have today is there is not a good space for people from different generations to have good quality conversations with each other, often hurting our relationships.

When Jesus was asked in Matthew 22 which is the greatest commandment in the Law?

He replied "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'" and continues 'And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

This to me is what the church is called to do. How do we love God? We worship Him, we converse with Him and we talk to others about Him. How do we love our neighbors, particularly our brothers and sisters in Christ? We pray with them and for them and develop healthy relationships with them. We love and serve our community and the world as the church.

Let us talk to each other about changing the church social structure. Let's talk about ways using healthy, godly methods to change what the church looks like to the world. Let's talk about church politics, power issues, and how to deal with the issues of the day. We want the world to know God, but the way we do church has failed to give us the capacity to make disciples well, it often fails to give space to hard conversations, Let us study the Bible, it is great that so many people write books, but let us focus on the Bible, and talking about it.

Let the church to pray, worship, study the bible, and be a place that godly community flourishes. I know people who want revival and pray for it daily but let us get ready for it and have the ability to have a world full of healthy churches that welcome people whatever their background, a church that is connected to God and each other so well that we serve as a lighthouse to the world.

Briefly, let me share a way I think this can be done.

Picture walking into a building, I honestly like the idea of a greeter and check-in, like some gyms. I believe the most important room should be a prayer room, where praise, worship and prayer are always going on when the building is open. Maybe there is live music, maybe music playing, or even a time of silent prayers, this room may not be the most popular room, but God is worthy of our worship and He tells us to pray continually, so we need to have space for that to happen.

The next space is a simple coffee shop, I'd prefer smoothie and sandwiches because I can't drink coffee, but hey, coffee shops seem to be popular and we need a space for people to meet up and chat.

Another space should be for parents to have their younger kids go (I'm thinking below 8 years old). It should be open a lot, but parents should only

be able to have their kids there for about 2 hours max, our primary goal is not to be a child care service, but create an environment where people meet God.

A really amazing space I would call the family room. It's the workout room, not like a gym workout, but a spiritual workout. At a number of times throughout the day people come in and are facilitated in a discussion about the Bible. I like the name Gospel Community Groups. An hour and half time of Bible study and prayer for each other. These Bible studies are not lectures, they are group discussions. They respect people and the variety of opinions they hold. The belief that connects people there is they want to love each other and love God well, and we agree that we get to know God better by studying the Bible. I love it when there are about 8 groups of 6-8 people and each group talks about a passage and there is one spokesperson from each group who comes up and gives highlights of the questions, observations, and interesting things the group says. Then a time of each of the groups pray for each other at the end.

There is a lot more involved than what I have said. There are many details that I have thought and not included, but I don't want to be insistent on my way, I just want to church to be better. Let's talk, contact me. timitt@outlook.com is my email. The church will be beautiful one day, let's do our part and make her better so we can be a light to the world.

My name is Tim Terry. I studied politics and theology in school 20 years ago, I still dream and tell God, 'here I am, send me', but find myself scraping by doing odd jobs. It would be great to hear from people who want to make the church better. I have faith and believe we can do something to bring the world closer to God and move the church towards unity.

God will keep his promise of a great inheritance to those who put their faith in Him.

(1 Peter 3-9 summary) Let us be people who have faith.