

Christian Basics

Part I

What is the church?

-- People God has rescued and teaches how to be fully satisfied in Him.

What is its purpose?

--To tell and teach others how to find true satisfaction in Christ

How does it accomplish this?

--Through the gospel of Jesus Christ

Before the fall, mankind was made in God's image and given the right to mimic Him, creating and exercising dominion over nature and the animal kingdom. God was, in essence, inviting Adam and Eve to be satisfied in Him.

--Genesis 1:26-30

Satan tempts Adam and Eve to become dissatisfied with God.

--Genesis 3:1-6

Satan again plays the dissatisfaction card, this time with Christ. Unlike the first Adam, the second Adam did not sin.

--Matthew 4:1-11

We're all born dissatisfied. The only remedy is to hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ, the righteousness of God.

--Matthew 5:6 & 1 Corinthians 1:30

--Satisfying ourselves in Christ will not only change us but prompt us to share with others how they can become satisfied in him as well.

--2 Corinthians 5:14-21

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Part II

As believers, we should serve God as an overflow of our love for Jesus Christ. Devotion, not duty, should drive our Christian service.

Christ requests our whole-hearted devotion:

“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” Matthew 10:37-39.

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. Matthew 13:44-45.

When we focus on Christ, we will become like him: 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

Fully loving Jesus Christ should shape our view of:

Giving

--Colossians 1:15-17 & 2 Corinthians 8:1-9

Baptism

--Romans 6:3-4

Worship

--Romans 11:36, 12:1

Fellowship/Small Groups

--John 13:34 (We're to love each other) & 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (We need each other.)

Service

--Ephesians 2:10 & 1 John 2:6