

What Would It Look Like?

A Picture of the Church in Action

I Corinthians 12:12-20

Perhaps the phrase “a picture is worth a thousand words” is overused, but it still rings true. Seeing something in action can often serve to more effectively communicate than can words alone—consider the Incarnation (Jn. 1:14; 14:8-9). Let’s paint some mental pictures of the church in action. Remember, words are bridges to the world of thought. The mental images words convey are the true power of the words (cf. I Cor. 2:10-16). Let’s imagine how the real deal looks.

Pictures Implied by Words and Phrases

- Focus (Col. 3:1-3)
- Hunger and Thirst (Matt. 5:6)
- Practice (Heb. 5:12-14)
- Priority (Mk. 12:28-34)
- Controlled by Love (Jn. 14:15; II Cor. 5:14-15)
- Sharing Jesus (Acts 8:4)
- Networking as the Body (Eph. 4:16)
- Need based Organization (Acts 6:1-6)
- Ask, Seek, Knock (Matt. 7:7-8)

It looks amazingly compelling this thing we call Christianity. When people see it, this is when the religion of the Christ truly comes alive (cf. Jn. 13:34-35; 17:21-23; Titus 1:16-2:10). Let’s make sure we remember how it looks when we encounter the words God uses to paint His compelling pictures. The words are given to call up images of how Christianity is supposed to look. True restoration will settle for nothing less!

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