This Church Has A Name

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INTRODUCTION

- By name here, I mean the idea of a reputation, or a description that befits our character as well as our reputation.
- We do have a name. And we should be concerned about that name. We should be concerned about that reputation.
- But it's important how others view us. But now more importantly, it's important how God views us.

1 A Church That Takes an Uncompromising Stand for the Truth

1 Timothy 3:14–15; Galatians 1:6–8

- We should have the name of a church that takes an uncompromising stand for the truth.
- This is not our church. This is his church.
- We live in a time that's increasingly buying into the idea that there is no such thing as truth.
- How you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and the ground of truth.
- It matters what we believe, it matters what we do, it matters what we teach, because it is the house of God.
- Churches in the New Testament were not only told to stand for the truth, to be people of the word, but they were reprimanded when they veered from that.

2 A Church That Loves and Supports One Another

Romans 12:9–13; John 13

- I want us to have a name. That we're a church that loves and supports one another.
- It was a body of people designed by God for this very purpose. So that we would seek one another out. And that we could be a support system to help one another.
- God never envisioned that we'd be isolated in any way in our faith.
- Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil, cling to what is good, be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor, giving preference to one another.
- We get involved, you get your hands dirty. You have to get down on your knees and get your hands dirty to help one another.
- If you have physical needs, let someone know. And please, if you have spiritual needs, raise your hand and let someone know.

3 A Church That's Open and Welcoming to Outsiders

James 2:1–4

- Lastly, this church should have a name of a church that's open and welcoming to outsiders.

- My brethren do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory with partiality.
- Don't let the number of our visitors water down your enthusiasm and your encouragement.
- We begin first by inviting people. Do you understand the power of a simple invitation?
- Be warm. Be inviting. Be welcoming. Show genuine interest in them. Look them in the eye. Ask them their names.
- But please, no negative comments around our visitors.

THE CHALLENGE

This church has a name. What do we want to put on the sign? What's already on the sign in other people's eyes? And more importantly, God knows our works. What is our name to him?

MY NOTES