

# “Characteristics of an Effective Church”

## Characteristics of An Effective Congregation

Romans 12:2 NLT

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Colossians 1:1-8 NLT

This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy. We are writing to God's holy people in the city of Colosse, who are faithful brothers and sisters in Christ. May God our Father give you grace and peace.

We always pray for you, and we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God's people, which come from your confident hope of what God has reserved for you in heaven. You have had this expectation ever since you first heard the truth of the Good News.

This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace.

You learned about the Good News from Epaphras, our beloved co-worker. He is Christ's faithful servant, and he is helping us on your behalf. He has told us about the love for others that the Holy Spirit has given you.

Characteristic 1: “God's **holy** people in the city of Colosse”

Colossians 1:2 NLT

*God's holy people in the city of Colosse*

People who live a **distinctive** lifestyle.

Holy means **set apart** for God's exclusive use.



Chuck Colson, “How Now Shall We Live?”

“Turning our backs on the culture is a betrayal of our Biblical mandate. Nothing could be deadlier for the church- or more ill-timed. Americans are groping for something that will restore the shattered bonds of family and community, something that will make sense of life. If the church turns inward now, if we focus only on our needs, we will miss the opportunity to provide answers at a time when people are sensing a deep longing for meaning and order.”

Be an ordinary guy living an **extraordinary** life.

Characteristic 2: “People who pulsate with a passionate **faith**.”

Colossians 1:4 NLT

*For we have heard of your faith*

Characteristic 3: People who extend an **inclusive** love.

Colossians 1:4 NLT

*We have heard of your love for all of God’s people*

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Colossians 1:8 NLT

*He (Epaphras) has told us about the love for others that the Holy Spirit has given you.*

John 13:35 NLT

“Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

Colossians 1:6 NLT

This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God’s wonderful grace.

Characteristic 4: People who **embrace** life-changing truth.

Colossians 1:5 NLT

*ever since you first heard the truth of the Good News.*

John 8:32 NLT

“And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

Characteristic 5: People who **cling** to a living hope.

Colossians 1:5 NLT

*which come from your confident hope of what God has reserved for you in heaven*