

“What Do You Offer?”

Introduction. It is very common to answer the phone at the church building and have someone say that they are “new in town and looking for a church” and they want to know “what we offer.”

Most of the time these people hung up rather disappointed -- we apparently do not offer what they are looking for. We establish criteria for what we want in life. Boys dream of the perfect car. Girls dream of the perfect wedding. Men dream of the perfect wife, and women dream of the perfect husband. But God gets to establish the perfect criteria regarding His church. With that in mind, should we answer the question posed above?

I. ***What Many Are Looking For***

A. Social activities.

1. People want a YMCA with a touch of scripture. Churches boast of their softball or volleyball team. They want a ladies’ yoga course and lessons on dieting.
2. When these folks visit, they are looking for a gym, sauna, dining room, and a lovely shaded area for family picnics.
3. God never set up His kingdom to emphasize social activities (John 18:36; cf. 6:22-27; Romans 14:17). It exists to help us grow spiritual (1 Peter 2:1-2; 2 Peter 3:18).

B. Social contacts.

1. The New Testament church had the kind of people most would not want to be around (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).
2. We are all one in Christ (Acts 10:34-35; Galatians 3:28), and the gospel would cause hatred, not generate business contacts (Matthew 10:22).

C. The biggest congregation in town.

1. They complain that there is not enough young people, not enough senior citizens, not enough singings, get togethers, etc. They are not looking for the presence or “candlestick” of Christ (Revelation 1:20).
2. Lots of Christians want to get lost in the crowd. They want to be a part of the “mega ministries.” They forget about personal responsibility (Galatians 6:1-10; James 1:27). We need to ask, “Where can I be a humble servant?”

D. Entertainment.

1. People want to go home “feeling good.”
2. But the church is not in the entertainment business (John 4:24; Acts 2:42-47).

- E. A good preacher.
 - 1. Maybe they want someone who will make them laugh and cry in the same lesson.
 - 2. Would they have liked Moses (Exodus 4:10) or Paul (1 Corinthians 2:1-5)?

II. ***What Christ Offers***

- A. Freedom from sin.
 - 1. Jesus saw sin for what it really was -- a cruel master (John 8:31-36).
 - 2. Sin separates man from God (Ezekiel 39:23-24; Micah 3:4).
 - 3. He implores you to come to Him (Matthew 11:28-30).
- B. A way of life.
 - 1. A way of holiness (Isaiah 35:8; 1 Peter 1:16).
 - 2. A way of narrowness (Matthew 7:13-14).
 - 3. A way of service (Matthew 20:20-28).
 - 4. A way of peace (John 14:27; Philippians 4:6-9).
- C. Citizenship in His kingdom.
 - 1. He came to establish His kingdom (Matthew 3:1-2; Colossians 1:13).
 - 2. Citizenship gives us fellowship with the Father (Romans 5:6-11).
 - 3. Citizenship gives us fellowship and support from godly people (2 Corinthians 2:7; 7:4; Ephesians 6:22).
 - 4. Citizenship allows us to eagerly wait for Jesus (Philippians 3:20).
- D. A home hereafter.
 - 1. Heaven is the home of the redeemed (John 14:1-3; 2 Timothy 4:6-8).
 - 2. The righteous will shine in the kingdom (Matthew 13:43).

III. ***What Should I Look For?***

- A. The church for which Christ died (Acts 20:28).
- B. People content to be Christians (Acts 11:26).
- C. Saints who are like-minded and who love each other (2 Peter 1:1).

Conclusion. We are 2,000 years and 10,000 miles removed from the church that was established in Jerusalem in Acts 2. The seed of the kingdom is the word of God (Luke 8:11). If we hold true to this precious resource, the we can be what God wants us to be.