

## Intro - Technology Upgrades Example

The church went through a similar upgrade contrast the OT church (religion) with the NT church (relational)

Jesus paved the way to a personal relationship with God. We are no longer bound by ritual and religious practices but have full access to the throne room (holy of holies)

The church is not a building or place it's people, specifically people who have received Jesus and what He has done for their redemption, those who place their faith in Him and not in their own efforts.

The Church is people - it's not a building, a service, a function of doing social good, or even an establishment of moral standards. Yes all of the happens because of the church but that isn't the church.

Jesus said I will build My church, any church that is built on anything other than the redeeming work of Christ in the hearts of men and women is nothing more than an enhanced social club.

**Psalms 127:1** Unless the Lord builds the House, it's builders labor in vain.

So if BCC is to be His church then we must get a thorough understanding of what His church is.

God always intended for His church to transcend culture in order to advance the gospel message, but if we were not careful we can become overwhelmed by culture and lose the heart of what the church really is.

Let's get a working definition of church in order to approach the next 7 weeks of in-depth discussions about His Church

*Definition of the Church - Community of Regenerated believers who confess Jesus Christ as Lord. In obedience to scripture they organize under qualified leadership, gather regularly for preaching and worship, observe the biblical sacraments of baptism and communion, are unified by the spirit, are disciplined for holiness, and scatter to fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great Commission as missionaries to the world for God's glory and their joy. - Marc Driscoll, Vintage Church*

**Acts 2:42** provides a summary of this definition.

## **Lets go through these eight characteristics of the true church.**

- 1) Regenerated Church Membership
- 2) Qualified Leadership
- 3) Preaching and Worship
- 4) Rightly administered Sacraments
- 5) Spiritual Unity
- 6) Holiness
- 7) The Great Commandment to Love
- 8) The Great Commission to evangelize and make disciples

## **2 Points Concerning “Qualified Leadership”**

### **First** - Understanding of Roles

**1 Tim 2:11** Women should learn quietly and submissively. **12** I do not let women teach men or have authority over them. Let them listen quietly. **13** For God made Adam first, and afterward he made Eve.

Elders are to be Men - Men and women are equal as concerning salvation, but they were created to perform different roles and those transfer into the Kingdom of God and His Church.

### **Second** - There is no such thing as a perfect Elder or Deacon.

We are all being made perfect by God’s Spirit so don’t go through these qualifications and discount yourself or be hard on yourself or even another leader.

### **ELDERS:**

**1 Tim 3:1-13** Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task.

**2** Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

**3** not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.

**4** He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect.

**5** (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)

**6** He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil.

**7** He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

## **DEACONS**

**8** Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain.

**9** They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience.

**10** They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.

**11** In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.

**12** A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well.

**13** Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

The deal is that we can not move forward as a church with His plan for our lives and our city without qualified leadership. Some of you in here are called to be more than seat warmers.

You need to step up and let God use you to serve His mission.