

# S.E.T.

***A strong church will have equipped pastors and trained leaders***

**JOHN 17: 22 - “The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one”.**

- I. For some years God has been speaking to us
  - a. The True North – calibrating your spiritual compass
  - b. Church by the Book – being the Church from the Bible
  - c. Healthy Church – being the Church that aligns to biblical principles
  - d. Back to Jesus – making Jesus the center of our ministries
    - i. It seems God is calling us to be His church
    - ii. Sin has been confronted out of lives
    - iii. Which Jesus are we really serving?
- II. Everything started in my heart when I started questioning... “why would Jesus pray for unity among His people when He could’ve prayed for anything else?”
  - a. Is UNITY so important to Jesus that He bases the veracity of His Kingdom on it?
  - b. Our unity certifies that Jesus was sent as the only way to the Father
  - c. Our unity convinces the world to know that Jesus is the Messiah
  - d. The GLORY that Jesus has given to His people is solely so that we can become one
  - e. If... God being in Jesus is now in us through Jesus... we must be one with Him!
    - i. So... if... the foundation of the world believing He is the one redeemer...
    - ii. If... the conviction of the world is achieved by our unity...
      - 1. Why do we preach some much about other things and not unity?
      - 2. Why do we spend so much singing together, but not getting to know each other?
      - 3. Why do we care more about the quality of the service, lights and set up than knowing where my brethren came from or what they struggle with?
- III. A strong church is a united church!
  - a. A strong church doesn’t have time to gossip!
  - b. A strong church cares more about the people than the program!
  - c. A strong church doesn’t waste time showing off how much they know or how spiritual they are!
  - d. A strong church makes sure everyone is connected to God!
  - e. A strong church doesn’t accuse the sinners but brings them to repentance!

- i. So... you're asking... "how do we build a strong church?"
- 1. I am glad you ask... tomorrow we will give you tools that will help you define your role in building a strong church... BUT... let me give you three things you need to do in order to part of what God wants to do in your church...
  - a. You must deny yourself
    - i. You and your feelings are not the most important in church
    - ii. You being comfortable is not more important than the message of the cross
  - b. You must honor the anointing in your brethren's lives
    - i. If I reject what you bring to the table, I will never be blessed by it
    - ii. The mantle that you honor is the one that blesses you
    - iii. You might be the heart of your church, but someone is the artery that brings blood so you can stay alive
      - 1. Moses was the leader... but Aaron and Hur had to lift his arms
      - 2. Paul was the great Apostle... but Barnabas mentored him in Antioch on how to interact with new believers
        - a. In the church we build one another!
  - c. You must know each other with a great level of intimacy
    - i. What you love, you protect!
    - ii. The church of today is a church of events to build numbers for the church... instead of knowing that if we build the people, the church will grow by itself!

#### IV. And that... brings me to the pastors...

- a. Since I was going to start preaching about Jesus' prayer about unity... I needed to study the whole chapter and then I realized that the first prayer Jesus said was not for the church... but for the pastors he was leaving behind.
- b. His disciples were about to become the new Apostles, Prophets, Pastors, Teachers, Evangelists... so He prayed for them something we can use as pastors to understand the importance of being equipped:
  - i. *<sup>6</sup> "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me **and they have obeyed your word.***
  - ii. *<sup>8</sup> For I gave them the words you gave me **and they accepted them.** They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.*
- 1. It is clear that as Pastors of His flock we are called to obey God's Word
- 2. An Equipped Pastor prays asking God for knowledge of the biblical principles we need live by

- 3. He says... "I gave them the words you gave me... AND THEY ACCEPTED THEM!!!"
  - a. It's not only knowing the Word, but being convinced about the life we get from it!
  - b. As pastors, we must know that we know that we know that Jesus is the only way to salvation... but not because someone taught us that... but because the Word says it and that is enough for me!
- iii. An equipped pastor should be **Loving and Compassionate** – but has to be willing to confront sin in order to bring his people to repentance and transformation
- iv. An equipped pastor should be **Honest and Accountable** – we cannot have hidden agendas – we cannot tell someone something and mean something else
  - 1. Grace brings people to repentance, but Truth sets them free
  - 2. When I have nothing to hide, I am not afraid to be accountable
- v. An equipped pastor is **Loyal** – you have to honor the people that believed in you when you were not as good as you are today – you have to honor those that built you and those that accepted your authority as their pastor
- vi. An equipped pastor is **Humble and Firm** – you must be willing to accept when you are wrong, but fight when the Word is right!
  - 1. Did you hear me?
  - 2. I don't fight when I am wrong... nor do I fight when I am right... for I am not called to defend what I believe!
    - a. I fight when the Word is right because IT IS THE WORD THAT BRINGS LIFE TO MY CHURCH!
- c. I have to keep sharing about Jesus' prayer for the pastors before I move on...
  - i. *<sup>14</sup>I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.*
    - 1. Why do we try so much, as pastors, for everyone to like us?
    - 2. Why do we change so many biblical principles so we can make people happy?
    - 3. Why do we hurt so much when people criticize us or leave us?
      - a. If you want to be liked... stop preaching the Word!
      - b. If you want everyone happy with you... stop saying the Truth!
  - ii. He finishes His prayer by saying: *<sup>17</sup>Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup>As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup>For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.*
    - 1. It is the Word of God the standard of truth in my church!
    - 2. When I tell people something that is not true... I do not bring them to sanctification

- a. If I have someone in church who gossips too much, I don't confront them with the truth of the Bible... they will be never be sanctified
- b. If I have someone who has been in my church for 20 years, but doesn't know the Word and I don't tell them they need to study the Word... they will never be sanctified.
- c. If I allow my leaders to be liars... they will never be sanctified
  - i. But... what should concern me even more is how Jesus finished the verse 18... *I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified...*
  - 1. If Jesus sanctify himself so we can be TRULY sanctified...
  - 2. Maybe we ought to do the same...
    - a. Sanctify ourselves... so our people can be TRULY sanctified.

V. And that brings me to training our Leaders to be ready for the Great Commission.

- a. I am going to use the same chapter to give you some principles that in my opinion are extremely important for the church leaders to understand:

i. *<sup>20</sup> "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,<sup>21</sup> that all of them may be one,*

- 1. If I want to be a good leader, I need to understand that my main goal is to make sure my church is ONE!
  - a. Everything we do, should move us towards being ONE
  - b. Everything I say or support... should be so we are ONE
  - c. I seek alignment with the pastor and other leaders... so we are ONE

ii. *Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.*

- 1. The goal of a good leader is to make sure I and everyone else are in God
  - a. Not by forcing everyone into what I believe... but motivating everyone into studying what the WORD says

iii. *<sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—*

- 1. If we are NOT one... we are not operating under the glory that He gave us
- 2. My job as a church leader is to make sure I help everyone to get into His glory

iv. *<sup>25</sup> Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I have made you<sup>[e]</sup> known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."*

- 1. If I want to be a good church leader... I must MAKE GOD KNOWN!

- VI. AND that is the major problem with some of our churches...
- a. We teach people how to dress... how to sing... how to pray... how to act... how to do the same things we've been doing for years... but not many of us teach everyone who God really is.
- i. I think we are living the generation of the ETHIOPIAN – there is no one to explain to those around us what the Word says God is!
  - ii. We all want to show how much we know!
  - iii. We all want to argue for what I believe!
  - iv. We all want to be known as very spiritual and wise!
    - 1. So this weekend we have chosen to walk away from all of that!!!
      - a. We don't want to be a church full of people that don't know what we are doing...
        - i. What we will present to you tomorrow, more than one day teachings, we want it to be the new direction of our organization...
        - ii. More than three conferences, you will hear our commitment with three clear goals...
          - 1. We want to STRENGTHEN our CHURCHES...
          - 2. We will do everything so we can EQUIP our PASTORS
          - 3. and we will not rest until we TRAIN our LEADERS for we believe
      - a. The Question is:
        - i. Are you ready to be part of what God is doing?