

1  **Characteristics of a Healthy Church**
PASSIONATE SPIRITUALITY

The BIG question:

Is my faith a component of my life, or the criteria of it?

Listen to Paul the Apostle

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Romans 12:1-12 (the heart of the matter)

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – His good, pleasing

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and perfect will. 3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather, think of yourself with sober judgement, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. 4 Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,

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5 so in Christ we who are many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. 7 If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; 8 if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously;

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if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. 9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

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12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

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What does Passionate mean??? --- the way we practice (value) our life/heart relationship with God

- * the place our faith holds in our priorities
- * the degree to which it influences our behaviour
- * time allocated to it in the things we do

Let’s listen to Paul again:

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SPOT ON SPIRITUALITY

Romans 12:1-12

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.

9 

ONGOING TRANSFORMATION

2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – his good pleasing and perfect will.

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SELF HONESTY – BE TRUE TO YOURSELF

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accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. 4 Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,

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5 so in Christ we who are many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

12  **PRESS THE LIMITS OF WHO GOD HAS MADE YOU TO BE**

6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. 7 If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching let him teach; 8 if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

13  **RELATIONAL INTEGRITY**

9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

14  **KEEP THE FIRE BURNING**

11. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

15  **At CHBC:**

- Individuals experiencing an "ALIVE" relationship with God – an inspiring experience
- Individuals letting their faith possess who they are
- Contagious enthusiasm the order of the day
- "Belongingness" to ones own church family
- Sunday worship UNMISSABLE!!

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