

Being a Relevant Church: Discovering God's Call to *BE*

Participant Study Guide

Thursday, April 16, 2020

Series: P.U.**R**.S.U.E. Excellence | Unit: Relevance

***Relevance.** God is at all times, and in every case, relevant. So too is God's word. The same must be true of God's people. To be relevant, **we must BE** who God formed this church to be where God planted us. Relevance positively impacts the community's lived experiences.*

With this statement about the nature of relevance for our church, it is necessary to further develop our understanding of how we can be a relevant church, and the implications of such a characterization.

Biblical foundations for a relevant church

The Bible relays the critical need for a relevant church. Simply stated, we are called to be present and to share in experiences in the following ways:

- Matthew 16:15-19. _____
- Acts 2:42-47. _____
- 1 Thessalonians 4:18. _____
- Galatians 6:2. _____
- 1 Thessalonians 5:11. _____
- Colossians 3:16. _____
- Matthew 25:31-46. _____

Theology of a relevant church

Developing a theology of a relevant church requires an awareness of the following, at a minimum:

- How does the church portray/represent God in the world? _____

- What is God presently doing through the church? _____

- What future expectation is there of God? _____



Hallmarks of a relevant church

The following hallmarks of a relevant church seem to be consistent with the biblical foundations and theological understanding of what makes a church relevant. (*Sources: Essential Church?: Reclaiming a Generation of Dropouts and Autopsy of a Deceased Church: 12 Ways to Keep Yours Alive.*)

1. Simplified structure
2. Deep content
3. Expects results based on faith ***in*** action
4. Multiplies disciples
5. Steeped in prayer
6. Meaningful member involvement
7. Mission-minded money management
8. Plans, specifically, to evangelize the community
9. Willing to change that leads to action
10. Partners with community