

LHCF Sermon Discussion Guide

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Characteristics of a Prevailing Church John 17:13-26

- 1. Joy is the 1st characteristic of a prevailing church**
*"Now I am coming to you. I told them many things while I was with them in this world so they would be filled with my joy."
John 17:13 (NLT)*
- 2. Holiness is the 2nd characteristic of a prevailing church**
*"I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. They do not belong to this world any more than I do. Make them holy by your truth."
John 17:15-17*
- 3. Truth is the 3rd characteristic of a prevailing church**
*"Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth."
John 17:17*
- 4. Mission is the 4th characteristic of a prevailing church**
*"In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world."
John 17:18 (MSG)*
- 5. Unity is the 5th characteristic of a prevailing church**
*"I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me."
John 17:22-23*
- 6. Love is the 6th characteristic of a prevailing church**
*"O righteous Father, the world doesn't know you, but I do; and these disciples know you sent me. I have revealed you to them, and I will continue to do so. Then your love for me will be in them, and I will be in them."
John 17:25-26*

The Basics of Love

- **We love because God loves us**
"Love comes from God...for God is love." 1 John 4:7-8 (NLT)
"We love because God first loved us." 1 John 4:19 (NIV)
"We know and rely on the love God has for us." 1 John 4:16a (NIV)
- **Love is a choice and a commitment**
"Choose to love the Lord your God... and commit yourself to him..." Deut. 30:20 (NLT)
- **Love is an action not just an emotion**
"Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3:18 (NIV)
- **Love is a skill**
"Dear friends, let us practice loving each other, for love comes from God and those who are loving and kind show that they are the children of God, and that they are getting to know him better." 1 John 4:7 (LB)
"Practice these things and devote yourself to them, in order that your progress may be seen by all." 1 Tim. 4:15 (TEV)
- **Love is a habit**
*"Continue to love each other with true Christian love."
Heb 13:1 (NLT)*
"If you only love those who love you, what credit is that to you?" Luke 6:32 (NIV)
"Test yourselves to make sure you are solid in the faith. Don't drift along taking everything for granted. Give yourselves regular checkups. You need firsthand evidence, not mere hearsay, that Jesus Christ is in you. Test it out. If you fail the test, do something about it." 2 Cor. 13:5 (Mes)