

## Characteristics of a Great Church

(Ephesians 4:1-6)

[Ephesians 4:1-6](#) As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit— just as you were called to one hope when you were called— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

I. Anchored to God's word; not chained to the past.

A great church remembers the marvelous works God has done in that church, but looks to the future.

The truths of God's word never change . . .

[John 14:6](#) (NIV84) Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

. . . How we communicate that message should constantly change.

II. Lets Christ, not culture, be its guide.

[Romans 12:5](#) (NIV84) so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

III. Keeps the main thing, the main thing.

Love for others is all-important; my comfort, not so much.

1 John 3:10 (NIV84) This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.

Matthew 28:19–20 (NIV84) Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”