



When the Church Fails

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

July 19, 2026

²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. – Eph. 5:27

But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.” – Rev. 2:4

I want to conclude the series from a position of reality. Every week we have sought to find out what the church is. Today, we seek to answer the question that many are asking today: "What do we do when the church doesn't look like what Christ intended?"

The Church this side of Glory – Revelation 2-3

- I. Christ _____ the Church as it _____ (... *I know your works*)

I know (Οἶδα) is Ancient Greek for "I know" or "I understand". It comes from the perfect form of ὁράω ("to see"), reflecting a tradition where seeing leads to intuitive recognition. "Hence, I see, therefore I know." ... Cp. Rev. 2:2, 9, 13, 19; 3:1, 8, 15

- II. Christ _____ the Church enough to _____ (... *you have left your first love* ...)
Cp. Proverbs 3:11-12; Hebrews 12:5-11; Revelation 3:19

- III. Christ _____ the Church to _____ (vs.9) (... *remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first.*)

Repent (Μετανοέω) is Ancient Greek meaning to repent, to change any or all of the elements composing one's life: attitude, thoughts, and behaviors concerning the demands of God for right living ... Cp. Rev. 2:2, 9, 13, 19; 3:1, 8, 15

- IV. Christ has not _____ on His Church ... _____ (... *to him who overcomes* ...)
Cp. Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 5:25-27; Philippians 1:6

So What ...

The _____ of a Healthy Church is not the absence of problems but the presence of _____.

Churches _____, but Christ remains among His churches, calling them to _____, sustaining them by His _____, and offering the _____ of His promise that the gates of hell will not prevail against the church He is building.

Appointment with God – Prayer Focus

THE LORD'S TOP PRIORITY—RELATIONSHIPS!

Father God, You emphatically and repeatedly state that our relationships with YOU and with OTHERS are Your top priority. You also clearly state that all principles, laws, and commandments are facets of how our relationships are to be lived out. We demonstrate our love for You and for others by OBEYING Your precepts. Our actions are to be determined by Your truths, not our emotions.

[Deut. 6:5; Matt. 22:37-40; Mark 12:30-31; Luke 10:27; John 14:15, 23 for starters]

LORD, OPEN MY EYES AND WORK IN MY HEART. MAY I DEMONSTRATE LOVE.

Wherever there appears to be discord, may we give thanks that the discord is now in the open...not festering and growing inside of us. May we look at the discord as a prompt from You, Lord, to seek Your will in the relationship. May we base our decisions and actions on Your truths...not our emotions, not our own understanding. Open our eyes, our ears, and our hearts to receive You and love the way You love. May we be moldable in Your hands as clay is to the potter. Help me not to judge others, but to be their prayer warrior for You to move in their lives. May OUR top priority be You and Your will in relationships, just as it is YOUR top priority.

[Ps. 51:10; Jer. 18:1-17; Rom. 8:27; Col. 2:2; 1 Thess. 3:12; Matt. 7:1-5 for starters]

GOD, HELP US CHANGE INGRAINED AND DESTRUCTIVE THOUGHT PATTERNS!

Lord, I come to You in stillness and ready to listen. Reveal to me where I am closing my eyes, ears, and heart to You. Show me, Lord, where I grieve You. Light my path, Father, to where I must choose Your ways over my thoughts and emotions. May You be glorified in my relationships as You lead and guide me. You say you are in the midst of us wherever two or three are gathered. I pray that we constantly listen for You as we navigate through rough relationships.

[Matt. 6:33; Romans 14:13; John 13:34; Eph. 4:2-3; James 5:16; 1 John 5:16 for starters]

Father, I choose to write down all You speak to me about my relationships—where I need to repent, restore, validate. I am accountable to You to live out Your commands. Help me avoid justifying my actions. May You be glorified.



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The Church this side of Glory – Revelation 2-3

- I. Christ **Sees** the Church as it **Really Is** (... *I know your works*)
I know (Οἶδά) is Ancient Greek for "I know" or "I understand". It comes from the perfect form of *ὁράω* ("to see"), reflecting a tradition where seeing leads to intuitive recognition. "Hence, I see, therefore I know." ... Cp. Rev. 2:2, 9, 13, 19; 3:1, 8, 15
- II. Christ **Loves** the Church enough to **Correct It** (... *you have left your first love* ...)
Cp. Proverbs 3:11-12; Hebrews 12:5-11; Revelation 3:19
- III. Christ **Calls** the Church to **Repent** (vs.9) (... *remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first.*)
Repent (Μετανοέω) is Ancient Greek meaning to repent, to change any or all of the elements composing one's life: attitude, thoughts, and behaviors concerning the demands of God for right living ... Cp. Rev. 2:2, 9, 13, 19; 3:1, 8, 15
- IV. Christ has not **Given Up** on His Church ... **and neither Should We** (... *to him who overcomes* ...)
Cp. Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 5:25-27; Philippians 1:6

So What ...

The **Measure** of a Healthy Church is not the absence of problems but the presence of **Repentance**.

Churches **Fail**, but Christ remains among His churches, calling them to **Repentance**, sustaining them by His **Grace**, and offering the **Hope** of His promise that the gates of hell will not prevail against the church He is building.

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