Hospital for Sinners or Hotel for Saints?

Phil Robertson · Ephesians 4:11–16

INTRODUCTION

- 66 books that make up the heavenly library written by 40 different authors over a time span of 1,500 years, and there's not one physical description of our Lord.
- While we do not have a clear description of what our Lord looks like, Scripture does give us a clear picture of what the bride of our Lord looks like.
- What does the church look like? Is it a hotel for saints? Is it a place where we should always find ease and comfort, no problems? Or is it a hospital?

1 What the Church Is Not

John 6; 1 Timothy 5

- All things were created through him and for him. He is the head of the body, the church.
- You need to be feeding on the bread of life, not just fish and loaves.
- Losing its spiritual focus, the congregation becomes a business instead of a body, a foundation instead of a family, and a corporation instead of a church.
- Being the Lord's church. And more importantly, being a sound church, is not just what you don't do. It's about what are you doing?
- What if a church is losing half of its children to the world? Would you call it sound?

2 Perfecting the Saints: A Hospital, Not a Hotel

Ephesians 4:12; 2 Peter 3:18

- It implies developing to maturity. It's the idea of taking someone and giving them the equipment they need so that they can properly function.
- In other words, the church looks a little like a hospital.
- When you think of us as Christians, we're in the hospital, and the great physician is our doctor. Do you ever want to leave his care?
- When you become a part of the Lord's body, you become a part of an organism that is working, in which every part is doing a part in service to the body.
- Some people are at different levels, but everybody's in the hospital one way or another. And everybody needs one another.
- Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever. Amen. You're not in a hotel, you're in a hospital.

3 The Work of Ministry

Ephesians 4:12; Matthew 25

- We're encouraging everyone to be involved in ministry because every single one of us is involved in work.
- This is the best work there is. It is working in the Lord's kingdom. It is working with the Lord's family.
- Sid. He is one of mine. Because we're a hospital for sinners. And I'm going to do what I can to help him.
- Every single one of us need to get in the work. And every single one of us need to have our own ministry.
- When I was naked, they clothed me. When I was hungry, they fed me. When I was thirsty, they gave me something to drink. When I was in prison, they visited me.
- What's your ministry? We're equipping each other to work in a kingdom like no other.

4 The Church Is About Edification

Ephesians 4:12; 1 Thessalonians 5; Hebrews 10:24–25

- The church is about edification. And the word edify simply by definition means to build up and strengthen.
- We are those who are looking to comfort one another and to edify one another.
- Do you know what it says in the preceding verses? Why we come together and what we're all about? To stir up one another to love and good works.
- You're not aggravating to be annoying. You're stirring people up to love.
- It's not good to do nothing. It's not good for you to just simply be idle. What we're about is encouraging one another to walk closely with the Lord.

THE CHALLENGE

May we be those who want to work in the kingdom? And we don't run from the hospital. We don't run from the challenge. We don't run from the frustrations. We embrace each and every one of them as opportunities.

MY NOTES