# How Do You Evaluate a Church?

**Mke Moriarty** · Acts 2:42–47

## INTRODUCTION

- So let me ask you a question. How do you evaluate a local church?
- Hopefully at the top of your list was whether the congregation you chose to worship with was biblically sound. Are we following what the word teaches?
- But once you find a church to worship with, do you continually evaluate what's being taught and what goes on in that congregation?

## 1 Jesus Evaluates Churches Differently Than We Do

**Revelation 2:12–15**

- No matter how you evaluate a local church, one thing is for sure, Jesus evaluates churches differently than we do.
- The church in Sardis had the reputation of being alive, but Jesus said, You are dead.
- So one doctrine is not as good as another even if Jesus is in the middle of it as he was in this case.
- Our evaluation of local churches is often wrong and could be eternally wrong.

## 2 Devoted to the Words of Jesus

**Acts 2:42**

- The primary passion of our church needs to be the same as the early church, that they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching.
- They met every day, they stayed up late into the night, they begged the teachers to stay longer because they wanted to know more about Jesus.
- And the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.
- Today we have the complete revelation, how much more hungry should we be for the word, how much more devoted to it should we be.
- The lack of such a hunger is a sign of a dying body, no matter how many people attend or how many activities are offered.

## 3 Devoted to the People of Jesus

**Acts 2:42; John 13:34; Ephesians 4:16**

- The true disciples of Jesus knew nothing about this focus on self. Their life had a new focus. It was not to self, it was to others.
- From whom the whole body joined and knit together by what every joint supplies according to the effective working by which every part does its share causes the growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

- It’s not always a fireside gathering with everybody singing kumbaia. They had disagreements that they had to sort out.
- To be disciples of Jesus, we must prioritize our lives so we can use our time and possessions to serve the family of the Lord.

## 4 Devoted to Worship

**Acts 2:42; Revelation 4; Revelation 5**

- One of the clearest ways to measure the health of a church is their enthusiasm for and participation in vibrant worship to God.
- The words of Jesus filled their hearts and worship came spilling out of their mouths.
- When believers lose their passion for worship, it’s a sign of spiritual weakness.
- Disciples of Jesus never see worship as a responsibility to fulfill. It’s a joyful opportunity to reflect on Jesus, be conformed to his character, and give him thanks.
- We’re called to participate in worship, not be entertained.

## 5 A Church the Lord Can Use to Save Souls

**Acts 2:47; 1 Thessalonians 1:8**

- When a church is filled with the words of Jesus, sacrificially loving his family, and joyfully worshiping his name, that is a church that the Lord can use to save souls.
- Saving people from hell was too important in the first century to turn it over to paid professionals.
- From you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place.
- So their preoccupation was not with self but with salvation.

THE CHALLENGE

I would ask each of you to examine your life and let us all endeavor to be devoted to the words of Jesus, the people of Jesus, to the worship of Jesus, and to sharing Jesus.

MY NOTES