



What Makes a Healthy Church?
Acts 13:1-13
November 13, 2016

Introduction:

What are the defining marks of a great church? I believe one great mark is that the membership chooses to live in obedience to the Great Commission. My job as your pastor is to model for you that our single greatest priority is to make disciples at home and around the world.

Henry Martyn:

“The Spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions, and the nearer we get to Him, the more missionary we become.”

Pastor Tim's Personal Philosophy:

Every person in the United States should have to travel outside the United States at least one time in his or her life. Every serious disciple should always have an updated passport.

I. A Healthy Church Has Spirit Filled Leaders.

Acts 13:1 (NKJV) Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

**Purpose Statement for all Three Clements Campuses:
Making disciples at home and around the world.**

II. A Healthy Church Has Spirit Filled Ministry.

Four Characteristics of the Godly Men That Lead Antioch:

A. They were serving men.

Acts 13:2a (NKJV) As they ministered to the Lord...

B. They were seeking men.

Acts 13:2b (NKJV) As they ministered to the Lord and fasted...

C. They were sensitive men.

Acts 13:2 (NKJV) As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said...

Principal: God never activates an inactive disciple.

D. They were selfless men.

Acts 13:3 (NKJV) Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.

I find it interesting that God chose the best two men in the church to leave and carry His gospel to the world.

III. A Healthy Church Has a Spirit Filled Mission.

1 Corinthians 16:9 (NKJV) For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

Kent Hughes:

“There is a cost to serving Jesus Christ. Never share your faith, and you will never be called a fool. Never stand for righteousness on social issues, and you will never be rejected. Never bow your head in public to pray over your food, and you will never be laughed at. Never practice honesty in your business, and you will never lose your dishonest partners. Never reach out to the needy, and you will never be taken advantage of. Never give your heart to anyone, and it will never be broken. Never go to Cyprus, and you will never be subjected to a dizzy, heart-convulsing confrontation with Satan. Consequently, seriously follow Jesus Christ as a disciple, and you will experience a gamut of sorrows almost completely unknown to the unbeliever. But of course you will also know the joy of adventure with the Lord Jesus and of spiritual victory as you live a life of obedience to Him.”

IV. A Spirit Filled Church Has a Mission Mindset.

A. People are more important than programs.

B. Prayer always leads to preparedness.

Don't pray for God to reach the world unless you are willing to go yourself.

C. Prosperity always brings perspective.