

I. Characteristics of a true Church

A. They received the grace of God

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.” (Romans 3:23-24)

B. They experienced the peace of God

C. They were encouraged by prayers for them

“Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.” (I Thessalonians 3:10)

D. They experienced the love of God

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

E. They were chosen by God to be his church

F. They experienced the power of God

II. Characteristics of a serving church

A. Their faith in God led them to work for God

B. Their experience of God’s love motivated them to serve God

C. Their hope in the living Christ inspired them to endure

III. Characteristics of a growing church

A. They welcomed the message of salvation

“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.” (Romans 1:16)

B. They followed Godly examples

C. They were faithful to God despite suffering

D. They displayed the joy of the Holy Spirit

“Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy.” (I Peter 1:8)

E. They had a faith in Christ that was contagious

F. They repented of idol worship that offered no hope

G. They chose to serve the true God that gave them living hope

H. They looked forward to the return of Christ

“While we wait for the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.” (Titus 2:13)

I. They were confident in Christ to rescue them in the future