

An Example of a Great Church

The early church in Antioch, Syria, was a great church! It changed thousands of people, and then changed the world. What was it that made this church so effective in building God's Kingdom?

1. A great church is a Frontier church.

"Now those who had been scattered by the persecution in connection with Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, telling the message only to Jews. Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Gentiles also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus."

- Acts 11:19,20

2. A great church is an Outreach church.

"...began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord."

- Acts 11:20,21

3. A great church is a Fruitful church.

"News of this reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord."

- Acts 11:22-24

4. A great church is a Discipled church.

"Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch."

- Acts 11:25-26

5. A great church is a Generous church.

"During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.) The disciples, each according to his ability, decided to provide help for the brothers living in Judea. This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul."

- Acts 11:27-30

6. A great church is a Worshiping church.

"In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

- Acts 13:1,2

7. A great church is a Sending church.

"So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off."

- Acts 13:3

The greatness of a church is based upon how many it sends,
not how many it seats.

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