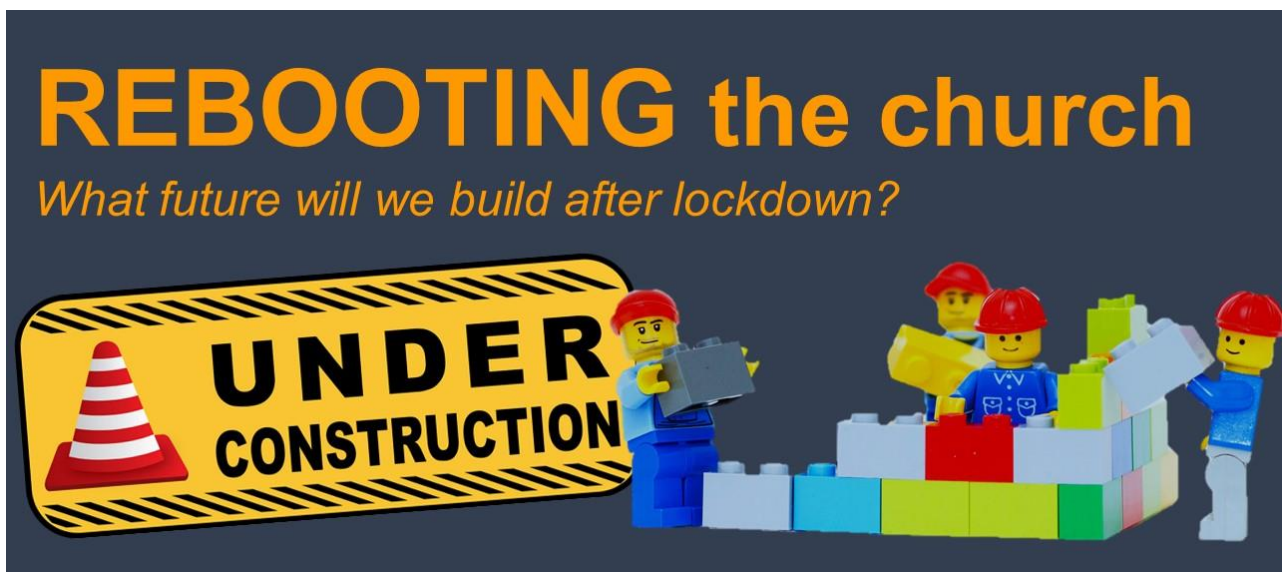


Clarence Park Baptist Church

Question for Week following service 15th August 2021



A GROWING HEALTHY CHURCH Colossians 1:9-14

Preparation

1. Watch the sermon from the church YouTube channel: https://youtu.be/zSQZupk_40A
2. Read the passages on the next page and reflect on the questions before meeting with the rest of the group to explore your journeys together

Group Study

- Begin with a time of prayer – asking God to help you learn something new

Reading:

Colossians 1:9-14

New International Version - UK

⁹ For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, ¹⁰ so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹ being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, ¹² and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

New International Version - UK (NIVUK)
Holy Bible, New International Version® Anglicized, NIV® Copyright © 1979, 1984, 2011 by [Biblica, Inc.](#)® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Questions for discussion

Reflect and share your experiences together using the following questions.

Take time at the end to ask what is God teaching you this week to help you grow as a disciple of Jesus?

1. Is there anything from the readings or message this week that stood out to you?
2. The sermon this week was reflecting on CPBC being a GROWING HEALTHY CHURCH. But what does a **HEALTHY CHURCH MEMBER** look like?

Either:

As a group form your own list -- can you apply bible references to support your thoughts?

Or

Using the list in the next page where a church group answered that question, look at their conclusion. Do you agree or disagree with each one? Explain...

What might you add to the list?

Prayer

Take some time to share prayer needs, pray for one another, for the church and for our local community before finishing with the words of the grace.

Source: <https://contendfortruth.com/2018/04/23/what-is-a-healthy-church-member/>

“What is a healthy church member?” While we could have definitely said more I was really blessed with our discussion. We did have several discussions of how some of these things practically manifest themselves in our local church, but I’ll share the core principles of our discussion. After about 2 hours of discussion here are a few of the qualities and some commentary on what we discussed:

1. **Healthy Church Members are Believers.** This is a given, but we just thought we’d start with the obvious!
2. **Healthy Church Members are *Regular Attendees*.** It would not be a stretch to believe that healthy church members *regularly* attend their local church (Heb 10:23–25).
3. **Healthy Church Members are *Active Attendees*.** Attendance is not merely enough. Healthy church members do not only regularly attend, but are active participants in service and worship (more on this in the rest of the list). We simply wanted to emphasize that you can regularly attend church and be an unhealthy member when there is a sinful passivity. Looking at Hebrews 10:23–25, we find that *active attendees* are concerned about encouraging other Christians towards love and good deeds (Heb 10:24).
4. **Healthy Church Members are *Faithful*** (1 Cor 4:1–2). When active participants regularly attend church they must do so with the right attitude. They need to make every effort to have pure motives of faithful church membership.
5. **Healthy Church Members *Sing*.** This was an interesting portion of our discussion. It was easy to justify the discipline of corporate singing because it is biblically clear (Eph 5:18–21; Col 3:16). It was a bit more difficult to find explicit passages that encourage the use of song in personal communion with God (closest we could think of was Jas 5:13). Still, it is clear that singing with other Christians is a joyful responsibility of any local church member.
6. **Healthy Church Members are *Concerned for Other Christians*.** It is clear that Christians have an obligations to one another. Christians are called to care for the spiritual health of other Christians (Gal 6:1–5; 1 Thess 5:12–14). Christians who need help is a wide spectrum. Even healthy Christians need encouragement, but it is the weak or struggling Christian that may especially need the ministry of the local church. Whenever the church gathers, especially on Sunday’s, Christians should enter into the assembly with the intent to be sensitive to other Christians and their need for spiritual encouragement, admonishment, and even correction. This quality also indicates that a healthy church member is intent and serious about practicing Scripture’s “one anothers.”
7. **Healthy Church Members *Study God’s Word in Community*.** Every Christian should be personally invested in the discipline of Bible intake; but the healthy church member understands that the Bible can and *should* also be studied in a community context. The church is given gifted teachers and leaders to help facilitate this growth. Healthy church members utilize the church’s gifts and ministries to grow in their understanding of God’s Word (Eph 4:11–16; 2 Tim 2:15).
8. **Healthy Church Members *Pray*.** The church should be a place of prayer and healthy church members actively pursue prayer in corporate contexts. Several passages indicate the importance of prayer in the life of the believer and how prayer relates to those around them (Eph 6:17–18; Matt 6:5–6; 1 Tim 2:1–7; 1 Thess 5:16–17; Acts 2:42; Phil 4:6).
9. **Healthy Church Members *Exercise their Spiritual Gifts*.** Every Christian has a spiritual gift (1 Cor 12:7). These gifts are given with the intention to encourage the local church (1 Cor 14:12). A healthy church member realizes that they make contributions to the local church’s wealth when they exercise their gifts. Inversely, the healthy church member realizes the edification they receive when surrounding Christians practice their spiritual gifts. A healthy church member uses their gifts and benefits from the gifts of others.
10. **Healthy Church Members *Participate in Discipleship*.** It is clear that discipleship takes place within the context of the local church (Matt 28:19–20; 2 Tim 2:2; Titus 2). Built within this principle is the priority to make evangelism a part of the Christian life. It is important that healthy church members make discipleship a part of their everyday life.
11. **Healthy Church Members *Submit to Church Leadership*.** The healthy local church member understands the role of leadership and godly authority in their life (Heb 13:17). They understand that submission to godly leadership is for their spiritual good. They work hard to maintain unity (Eph 4:1) and display humility in their submission to church leadership.