

“WHAT THE CHURCH IS NOT... !”

(Submitted by: James D. Strauss, my very dear friend who has gone to be with the Lord of the universe)

"I want a church that will bring me Instant friendships. I like to have people into my home and I enjoy being invited out. I like to have a good time. Social life is important to me".

THE CHURCH IS NOT THE COUNTRY CLUB...

"I expect the church to help me when I'm out of a job or down on my luck. It is the sort of thing they ought to do".

THE CHURCH IS NOT AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY...

"I want a church where I can go when I feel like it, pay my dues and meet some good people".

THE CHURCH IS NOT A SOCIAL CLUB...

"I want a church that lets me have things my way".

THE CHURCH IS NOT BURGER KING...

"I want a church that has some good shows, great musicals and eloquent speakers".

THE CHURCH IS NOT AN ENTERTAINMENT CENTER...

"I want a church that really helps the community. Lincoln (city) needs to be promoted. When things are not going well for the city, the church needs to go in there and speak it's mind".

THE CHURCH IS NOT THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE...

"I want a church where I am taken care of I give my money and I expect personal service. And, when I attend, I'd like for the services to be more accommodating".

THE CHURCH IS NOT THE HOLIDAY INN...

"I want a church where things are really happening. I don't want to be in the middle of it, I just like to watch exciting things happening around me.".

THE CHURCH IS NOT A FOOTBALL GAME...

“Let the church be the church -- Let it be POWERFUL, not popular -- Let the church be pure, not permissive •• Penetrating, not patronizing”.

Let the church be the church, with the courage to preach the truth, attracting the committed, not just the crowds, dedicated to discipling the world, not diluting the message. Let it pulsate, not stagnate -- Let it be courageous not compromising. Daring, not dead -- Salient (*strikingly conspicuous*), not safe.

Let the church storm the gates of hell, see the vision of the victory, pay the price, do the impossible, stay the course, hold the line, speak the truth in love, go the distance, fight the enemy, bear the wounds, win the battle and shout the victory. Never let it be said of the church that we quit or slowed or gave up. Let the church never forget she is on the battlefield, not the playground. Let the church never remove her eyes from the groom, Jesus Christ and when the war is over, the enemy destroyed, let the church be adorned with the wedding garments to cover her scars of combat and let her be pure and undefiled for the wedding feast of the Lamb”.