



Leading People into a Growing
Relationship with Jesus Christ!

Antioch CELEBRATION Message: A Photo Album of a Healthy Church

Guest Speaker: David Upchurch

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Suggested Conversation Starters

If you could describe your church in one word, what would it be?

What word would you LIKE it to be?

LEARN / live / love / lead

This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle¹ of Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy. We are writing to God's holy² people in the city of Colosse, who are faithful brothers and sisters in Christ. May God our Father give you grace and peace.

We always pray for you, and we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God's people, which come from your confident hope of what God has reserved for you in heaven. You have had this expectation ever since you first heard the truth of the Good News.

This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace. **Colossians 1:1-6 (NLT)**

¹ "Apostle" indicates one who was specifically chosen and sent by Jesus.

² "Holy" indicates being set apart for a special purpose.

A Healthy Church is...

...a church filled with holy people. (vs. 2)

...a church filled with people who have a passionate faith. (vs. 4)

...a church filled with people who love people. (vs. 4)

...a church filled with people who share the gospel message. (vs. 6)

...a church filled with people who have a great hope. (vs. 5)

learn / LIVE / love / lead

Some people who profess to be "holy" are actually unkind, aloof, and judgmental. How did Jesus show us what *real* holiness looks like?

“Passionate faith” – what is it? What does it look like?

How does God develop your faith?

What assurance of God’s kindness do you always have even when your faith is lacking? (Mark 9:23-24)

learn / live / LOVE / lead

Consider the following Scripture—can you have faith without **loving people**?

Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God. Even if we feel guilty, God is greater than our feelings, and he knows everything.

Dear friends, if we don’t feel guilty, we can come to God with bold confidence. And we will receive from him whatever we ask because we obey him and do the things that please him.

And this is his commandment: We must believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as he commanded us. **1 John 3:18-23 (NLT)**

“God is greater than our feelings, and he knows everything” – does this help you trust in God more?

learn / live / love / LEAD

As you continue to care for your neighbors, what are some practical ways you can share the Good News of Jesus?

As you engage life with Jesus’ power, you will find that you need Jesus’ power to help you:

- Be holy when the world wants you to blend in...
- Stay passionate when the world wants you to settle down...
- Keep loving and serving when your natural self wants you to “get all you can, can all you get, and sit on the can”...
- Consistently live out the Good News with words and actions, when it’s easier to just talk about the weather...

What propels us to keep passionate? Our **GREAT HOPE** of Jesus coming to take us to be with Him!

“Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. **John 14:1-3 (NLT)**

Pray!

Thank God for our great hope through Jesus!