

Faithful, Hopeful, Loving Churches
I Corinthians 13:13

Any Church Can Be a Faithful, Hopeful, and Loving Church – I Thess 1:1-10
...the Faithful, Hopeful, Loving One resides in us – Col 1:27

In Christ We Experience a Radical Change in “Beingness” – II Cor 5:17; Is 43:18-19

- Once we were _____, now we are _____ - Eph 4:24; Ga 2:20; Ro 6:3-11
...completely saved, fully supplied partakers of the Divine nature – Col 2:9-10; II Pet 1:3,4

In Christ We Experience a Radical Change In “Belongingness” – I Cor 12:13

- We have been baptized/immersed into the Church, the family of God – I Pet 2:9-10
...each with a God-designed place/role, value – I Cor 12:7,12-14,18

We May Be Communities of Faith (not fear) – II Cor 5:7

- Truth sets the agenda – Jo 17:17
...we do life together UNDER the authority of the Word of God – Lk 5:5
...every other “voice” is stilled before Him – Ps 46:10
- We intend to be faithful – Prov 8:20; I Cor 4:17; II Tim 2:2
...we give gifts of faithfulness: “with-ness” – Mk 3:14; II Thess 2:13; Jo 14:16; help others “listen” for God –
Ro 10:17; we speak truth in love – Eph 4:15
...example: small groups – Ro 12:15

We May Be Communities of Hope (not hype) – II Cor 1:8-11; 4:16-18

- The eternal perspective of God sets the stage – Ga 6:9; I Tim 1:1
...we begin to see life’s “events” as escorts pressing us into the hands of the Divine Potter – Jer 18:3; Ro 8:18,35ff;
Rev 21:5
- We intend to be hopeful – Heb 12:12-13; Ga 6:1
...we give gifts of hopefulness: comfort – II Cor 1:3,4; 7:6; honor – Ro 12:10; Speak to the new man (not fuss at the
old) – Eph 4:24; Col 3:10
...example: we gather to bless, not just to be blessed – I Cor 14:26; II Cor 12:19; 13:10

We May Be Communities of Love (not law) – Jo 13:34,35

- In God and in His people, Love sets the course – I Jo 4:7,8; II Cor 5:14
...God’s love is a source of motion that moves Him/us in direction of need – Jo 3:16; I Jo 4:10-11; I Jo 2:8; 4:17
- We intend to love- I Jo 3:16
...we give gifts of love: we look “with” love, not just “for” it – I Jo 4:19; we go “low” not “high” – Lk 22:27; we put
the interests of others above our own – Phil 2:3,4
...example: “hospitality” – Ro 12:13; I Pet 4:9; Deut 6:23
(open hearts, arms, calendars, homes... - Heb 13:2)

Faithful, Hopeful, Loving Churches Are Learning to Let Go of Self-Centered Living!
 (“not I, but Christ” is being translated into “not I, but you”)