

HOW VALUABLE IS THE CHURCH? (Ephesians 1:22-23)

I. What does it cost to produce?

- A. You probably are thinking this has nothing to do with value, it really does.
 - 1. You have to take into consideration the cost of the elements used to make whatever product it is.
 - 2. You have to take into consideration how much time it takes to provide your service.
- B. When considering the church, there is a great deal of cost involved in it from a time standpoint.
 - 1. The church was in planning and preparation over two dispensations of time.
 - 2. From Genesis 3:15 on, man was looking for a Savior.
 - 3. For at least 4,000 years, the church was in the planning and preparation stages.
- C. Abraham was told that through him all nations of the earth would be blessed (Genesis 12:1-3).
 - 1. This promise was made to Isaac and then to Jacob.
 - 2. A promise was made to David that through him, a kingdom would be established (2 Samuel 7).
- D. The prophets foretold of this kingdom and John prepared the way for the One who would build it.
- E. On top of that, we know it cost the blood of Jesus to create it (Acts 20:28).
 - 1. There is nothing on the face of the earth that has ever cost this much.
 - 2. All the gold in the history of the world is not as valuable as the only begotten Son of God.
 - 3. The world's only perfect human being had to shed His blood to build and purchase the church.
- F. The price tag for the church shows how valuable it really is.

II. How unique is it?

- A. Can you get what is being offered anywhere else?
 - 1. If you are selling donuts then you need to factor in the price your competitors are asking.
 - 2. If you are selling something that is rare, then you have the ability to ask more for it.
- B. There is only one church.
 - 1. You can't get more unique than being the only one.
 - 2. Jesus said He would build just one (Matthew 16:18).
 - 3. There is only one body (Ephesians 4:4).
 - 4. Jesus is the head of that body (Ephesians 1:22-23) and that body is the church (Colossians 1:18).
- C. A question asked under this one was: "What is the advantage of your product or service compared with the competition?"
 - 1. The advantage of the church of Christ is that it is the only one

- planned by God and purchased by Jesus.
- 2. It is the only one that will be delivered up to the Father (1 Corinthians 15:24).
- 3. It is the only one to which Jesus is adding the saved (Acts 2:47).
- D. All of these traits show that the church of Christ is extremely unique, which again shows how valuable it truly is.

III. **How quickly do your buyers need what you are selling?**

- A. Did you know Fred Smith got a failing grade by his business professor when Mr. Smith presented his idea for FedEx?
 - 1. The professor did not think people would pay extra to have something delivered overnight.
 - 2. Today, speed is an ever increasing component to the value of a good or service.
- B. The fact is, people need what is being offered by the church immediately.
 - 1. 2 Corinthians 6:2.
 - 2. If you are not a Christian, you need to become one today, right now.
 - 3. We are not promised another day or another breath (James 4:14; 1 Peter 1:24).
- C. The dire we need we face for salvation and the speed with which we ought to be obtaining it through Christ shows the tremendous value of the Lord's church.

IV. **What is the replacement cost?**

- A. The writer of the article, when discussing this question, simply stated, "Something that is easily replaced may not be worth something that is hard to come by."
 - 1. It's easy to get a light bulb.
 - 2. It's much harder to get a new car.
- B. The thing about the church is that it can't be replaced.
 - 1. This goes back to the question of how unique it is.
 - 2. There is only one and there will only be one.
- C. The great thing about the church is that it never needs replacing.
 - 1. It never gets old.
 - 2. Man will always need the church.
- D. Never needing a replacement shows the tremendous value of it.

V. **Is this a fad item or one that people will be highly passionate about?**

- A. I hope you didn't invest in lava lamps or chia pets.
- B. History is full of items that were simply fads that passed just as quickly as they arrived.
- C. The church is not a passing fad.
 - 1. It will last until it is delivered up to the Father.
 - 2. Daniel spoke of its enduring quality long ago (Daniel 2:44; 7:13-14).
- D. Man, inspired by Satan, has tried to stamp out the church.
 - 1. He has tried to do it through killing Christians.
 - 2. He has tried to do it through destroying the Bible.
 - 3. His best weapon has been convincing Christians that there are

replacements to the church and that it is not very valuable.

- E. Jesus was passionate enough to die for it.
- F. Nearly all of the apostles were passionate enough to die for it.
- G. Untold numbers of early century Christians were passionate enough to die for it.
- H. We must be passionate enough to die for it, but more importantly, we must be passionate enough to tell others about it.
- I. The church is not some passing fad, thus showing its value.

VI. Is this a one time deal or something that will continue into the future?

- A. The idea is: Is your product a one item sale that you never need again or will there be a relationship of continued need?
 - 1. Is it like selling a house?
 - 2. Or, is it selling a copier that will need ink continually?
- B. The answer to this question is that it most certainly is a continued relationship.
 - 1. Upon being added to the church by Jesus, one must continue to be faithful to it and Christ.
 - 2. We must be faithful unto death (Revelation 2:10).
 - 3. We cannot forsake the church (Hebrews 10:24-25).
- C. We will always need access to the blood of Jesus (1 John 1:8-10).