



WOW: Word Of the Week

BECOMING

November 17, 2021

How shall we measure life? Having, Doing, Becoming! When the church genuinely becomes church, everything changes. Church is no longer defined by what is done on Sunday, or the resources the church receives and has available in the collection.

Those preaching God's Word on Sunday are preparing God's people to live out what it means to become authentic and genuine as church.

The life of the church is not measured on Sunday but on Monday through Saturday.

Daily life is the measurement of the church's life.

Those assembling and celebrating on Sunday experience community during the week in various groups, they hear the word, study, apply the word every week in their groups.

The focus is becoming!

Many sermon texts are available for Sunday preaching. One of the first questions must be, what are the congregation's needs? But equally important in sermon preparation, and even more important, is that the congregation must not only hear the Word of God. The congregation must be clearly shown how to apply and experience God's Word—how to be, become, the church sent forth.

The life of the church is experienced in community and goes beyond individualism.

Preaching God's Word must point to the real experience of community, the shared studies and groups that help the members and the hearers apply God's Word.

When I served in ministry, we always had at least one week-long series to help us go deeper into God's Word. One time I preached such a series at a church in Ohio, focused exclusively on the book of Hebrews. Deep biblical themes nourish and strengthen the congregation and to reach out to unbelievers. One person remarked, "I've never attended a gospel series where only one book was preached."

In preaching, the impact of my words went beyond what the people heard on Sunday. My fondest hope, dream, joy—that God's people would take my preaching and apply it the context of their own personal communities—the faith community, shared spiritual endeavors, and the larger community around them, that we would genuinely BECOME the church to the world about us! I tell you from firsthand experience, that God blesses the church that is committed to BECOMING church and BEING church 24/7. Such churches have doubled and tripled in less than ten years!