

## The Ideal Church

I long to be part of a church where the Bible is valued so highly that it's systematically communicated with clarity and passion. It would emphasize the power of God's Word to accomplish spiritual transformation as well as worldview formation.

This church would not be content to merely offer activities, but it would have a culture focused on spiritual growth for believers.

It would be a church where believers set aside selfishness and petty differences and band together to focus on their mission to spread the gospel.

This church would reject the favoritism expressed almost everywhere in the world, welcoming newcomers regardless of who they are or how they look.

In this church they would teach about and emphasize the need for personal conversion so that everyone recognizes how to become a Christian before trying to live the Christian life.

I want a church that helps families succeed, both by teaching principles of healthy family life as well as emphasizing the importance of balance between church, work, home and leisure.

Unlike our culture in which the character of leaders seldom matters, this church would have leaders who exhibit the fruit of the Spirit in their lives and who genuinely care for the people they serve.

When this church meets on Sundays, people's hunger to know God would be clearly displayed by their engagement in worship music and their close attention to the communication of the Scriptures.

And in this church, mature believers would be so committed to passing the baton of faith that they would enthusiastically support an approach to ministry that reaches the generations that follow them.