

What to look for when choosing a church...

In Psalm 92:12-13 the analogy is used of a tree to represent what God's heart is for each person; "The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon"; For those that are "planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God". In Psalm 68:6 shows us that God is committed to setting you in a family. The family will help grow you in your relationship with Him, and expand and develop the gifts which you have been given.

It is important when "**choosing a church**" that you have some objective guidelines to help you make a strong decision. Our prayer is that the points below will help you in making the important decision of connecting to a church community. It is one of the most significant decisions in our Christian walk.

Some questions to be asked might be.....

1. Is God leading me to this church?

This is about making a spiritual decision, not just a decision that is based on "feelings". It is good to know that the Holy Spirit has been involved in leading you, so that you don't need to keep revisiting your decision. Is it a place that you can confidently plant yourself and where you will flourish because He has called you to be part of the church.?

Scriptures. Rom 8:14 John 10:14,27 Phil 1:6 Ps 92:12-13

2. Does the church have a clear vision in which you can see yourself ?

It is important to be in a church where there is a clearly defined and articulated vision. Is the vision something that you or your family can be part of helping fulfill? Is there a resonance between the Church's vision and that of me and my family?

This vision is not based primarily on personality, size, music, preaching, or a particular demographic. Can I "fit" into the vision, be stretched, and enlarged in my capacity.?

Scriptures. Hab 2:2 Is 54:6 Is 9:7

3. Is there a reliance upon the Holy Spirit in the church?

The Holy Spirit is the agent of change both personally, and in church life. Therefore we must have reliance upon Him to bring freedom and change to our life. The Holy Spirit was there when the church was started on the day of Pentecost. He is there to empower each believer and maintain freshness and connection in our walk. Fully experiencing the person of the Holy Spirit will be observed not only through the services, but in the small group environment and in the conversations people have in the church.

Scripture. John 14:16-17 John 16:7,14 Acts 1:4 Acts 1:8 1Cor 12& 14 Gal 5

4. Is the church a safe yet challenging place for personal growth?

The church should be a place where we, through our connections and relevant messages, are challenged to grow closer to God. It is about people knowing where we are at, knowing where we are going, and doing what it takes to walk beside us to get us there.

Is it a safe place where you will be inspired to grow through love, discipleship, and strong leadership.?

Scriptures. John 3:17 Rom 12:3

5. Is the church a place where I would bring my friends who are coming closer to meeting Him

It is important to have a love and confidence in your church. When it is time to bring your friend to church will you be proud of your church home? Will you feel confident in bringing your friend into the environment? It is a similar to when you invite your friends back to your home, you know what to expect. You know that the atmosphere that you create in your home is comfortable for your friends. If you feel comfortable in your church you will be more inclined to invite friends.

Scriptures. John 4: 7-13; 28-30; 39-42 Rom 1:16-20 Mark 16:15 Luke 15:7

6. What is the strength of the leadership to grow & release your gifts?

This one is harder to initially assess but over time it will be more obvious. The key here is that your God given gifts are identified, developed and released so you can be the best person God has created you to be. Start with your observations of the amount of people serving around the church (not just on a Sunday service, but in ancillary areas). Some good questions to ask would be... "Are the leaders of the church strong, secure, and releasing of people into their gifts?". "How many people are involved in the church leadership structures"?

It is important to be drawn to the leaders of the church as people (because you like who they are). You need also to be able to see the strength, values and heart of the Senior Leadership team flowing into the other leaders and ultimately the congregation.

There should also be a fit of the churches values and your values. It will be hard for you to "fit" into the culture of the church if these clash.

Scriptures. Eph 4:7-16 Exodus 18: 17-26 Rom 12:1-8

7. Are the people "Your type of people"?

It is important to "like" the type of people who are in your church. You should feel a sense of "I belong" or "feel at home" or a "knowing that the sense will grow over time as I connect". You should have a definite ability to "see yourself" hanging out with them. This is about liking the "DNA" of the "tribe" which is seen in values, vision and direction.

Scripture. Ruth 1:16 Col 2:2

At C3 Hobart, we count it a privilege to serve God by creating an environment where people grow in their relationship with Him on a daily basis.

We hope this brochure has been helpful for you. If there are any further questions you would like to know about the 7 points & C3Hobart then please ask at the information desk or make an appointment to see one of our pastors by phoning the church office.