



**THE STATE OF THE CHURCH
NEW HOPE CHURCH VISION SUNDAY**

Jan. 25, 2015

...you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

-1Peter 2:9-10

1. THE CHURCH IS NOT MY IDEA BUT GOD'S.

• God is forever planning a FAMILY REUNION.

2. THE LIGHT/TRUTH IN WHICH THE CHURCH EXISTS.

- Its FOUNDATION.

1 Corinthians 3:11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. **1 Corinthians 12:3** Therefore I tell you that ...no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 8:6 ...yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

- **Its LIFE-FORCE.**

1 Corinthians 12:7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8 To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit,

10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

- **It's STRESS TEST .**

1 Corinthians 12:12 The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ...25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.

- Its **UNIQUE GIFT TO THE WORLD.**

1 Corinthians 12:31 But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way. 13:1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

3. OUR NEW HOPE (AS WELL AS THE WHOLE CHURCH) CHALLENGE

- The church is not a **STATE** but a **MOVEMENT**.

Matthew 16:15 "But what about you?" Jesus asked. "Who do you say I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.

18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

- The church is not an IDEA but a MISSION.

John 20:21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

1 Corinthians 9:19 Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. 20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law.

NIV 1 Corinthians 9:21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.

- The church is not a PLACE but a LIFE-CHANGING POWER .

Acts 1:8 Jesus said, “...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”