

# The Marks of A Healthy Church

A Church that Creates Disciples

## Vicar or publican - which jobs make you happy?



**Which would you be happier doing - serving pints or serving God? Helpful advice on how to make those difficult life choices is on hand.**

The Cabinet Office has been looking at the relationship between different jobs and levels of life satisfaction, and publicans, it turns out, are in the unhappiest occupation of all. They are closely followed by brickies and debt collectors.

The happiest workers, the research suggests, are vicars and priests. Members of the clergy enjoy the most satisfying lives - but farmers and fitness instructors are pretty jolly too.

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Vicars Top of the League for Job  
Satisfaction – The Times

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you Become a Vicar – The  
Telegraph

The Lord is Gracious and Compassionate

The Lord is good to all

The Lord is trustworthy

The Lord upholds all who fall

The Lord is righteous in all his ways

The Lord is near to all who call on him

The Lord watches over all who love him

Psalm 145

**<sup>4</sup> One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.**

E.M.Bounds once wrote, “People are looking for better methods, God is looking for better people.”

One of the driving convictions of our movement is summarized in the statement: A church is only as good as her disciples. Healthy disciples make up a healthy church. Reproducing disciples will make a reproducing church.

Neil Cole

<sup>27</sup> And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

<sup>28</sup> “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? <sup>29</sup> For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, <sup>30</sup> saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’

<sup>31</sup> “Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup> If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. <sup>33</sup> In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

<sup>34</sup> “Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? <sup>35</sup> It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out.

Luke 14



In other words, Jesus is saying, “Stop your foolish pursuit of security and reputation before you go spiritually bankrupt! Can’t you see you’ll never be able to complete your project? You’re throwing your life away on a pipe dream that you’ll never be able to pay for. Give up the foolishness, and come follow me instead.”

Ben Sternke

There's great cost for all who settle for casual association with Jesus and miss out on the abundance and satisfaction and joy that he has designed for us.

David Platt

“The cost of non-discipleship is much higher than the cost of discipleship. Discipleship is a bargain.”

Dallas Willard

# Disciples know their Identity

<sup>14</sup> For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. <sup>15</sup> The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “*Abba, Father.*” <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. <sup>17</sup> Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Romans 8

# Disciples Have Authority

17 The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”

18 He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. 20 However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is sovereign over all, does not cry 'Mine!'

Abraham Kuyper

Jesus didn't come to get God's authority back he came to get our authority back.

Jon Tyson

# Disciples live with Purpose

23 Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. 25 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?”

Luke 9

## CHANGE OURSELVES

“What an astonishing vision! The water of heaven flows through our being until we are fully changed people. We wake each morning breathing the air of this new world; we experience a new consciousness, and our character is transformed. We drop our deceitful practices, our insincerity, our defensiveness, our envy, and our slander, and we move outward toward others in genuine love.”

Dallas Willard

# CHANGE OUR WORLD



The screenshot shows the BBC News UK website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the BBC logo, a user profile for 'Simon', and menu items for News, Sport, Weather, iPlayer, TV, Radio, and More... A search bar is also present. Below the navigation bar, the main content area features a large article titled "Girls in gangs leading desperate lives, says report". The article includes a photograph of a young girl with blonde hair, seen from behind, looking at a wall covered in colorful graffiti. The text of the article discusses the pressures on young girls in gangs and the role of rape as a weapon. To the right of the main article, there are sections for "Top Stories" and "Features", each containing several smaller news items with thumbnail images and brief headlines.

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## Girls in gangs leading desperate lives, says report



The report says female gang members are being pressured into having sex with boys as young as 10 to initiate males into gangs

**Girls in gangs are leading "desperate lives" in which "rape is used as a weapon and carrying drugs and guns is seen as normal", a think tank has said.**

The Centre for Social Justice said the "daily suffering" of thousands of women and girls "goes largely unnoticed".

Girls as young as eight are being used to carry drugs, it added.

The CSJ called for youth workers to be embedded in hospital trauma

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"The data we have is merely the tip of the iceberg and at XLP there is no doubt that we see increasing numbers of girls dragged into this appalling world of exploitation, criminality and hopelessness," Patrick Regan, chief executive, said.

CHANGE EACH OTHER

**<sup>4</sup> One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.**