

PART 3&4: WITH THE WORLD AND CHURCH WEEK 7C: WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE CHURCH?

WARM UP: 1) Off the top of your head, name some things that are wrong with the Church (both today and in history)? 2) Now answer this question, "what is so *good* about the Church?"

1. Read Matthew 5:14-16 and 1 Peter 2:9. Before we get into the hard stuff, it's good to be reminded of the incredible vision, calling and identity God has given the church! Ok here we go...

2. Read Galatians 1:8 and John 16:13. The truth matters in Christianity – a lot – and history is full of churches separating over it. What is and isn't worth disagreeing or splitting about? How in practice should the church seek God's truth together?

2. Read 1 Cor 1:10, Romans 12:10 and 1 Cor 6:7-8. The relational unity of God's people also matters a lot, but so often the church is full of division and dysfunction. What are some biblical principles to help keep relational unity in the church?

3. Read John 8:36 and Matthew 6:24. The church has often "sold out" to the society/government it's in. What is CBC in danger of selling out to? How can we remain distinct?

4. Read John 15:5-8. No church is immune to hypocrisy, abuses of power or doing harm. What hope and what warning do you find in these verses from Jesus? How do we live this out?

BRING IT HOME: What step can you take <u>today</u> to make the church (i.e. our church) more like what Jesus intended it to be?