



State of the Church
Mike Halpin ~ August 27, 2017

Intro: State of the Church

In Jesus' eyes, what's the state of Lion & Lamb Church? What's my own state?

I. Jesus Builds His Church

*Matthew 16:18 ... I will build My Church....

You and I are linked in God's providence and plan w/ the Reformers and the apostles in the same called out-group. We are part of the fruit and the process of God's eternal counsels to glorify Himself in Christ from before the cosmos was created.

II. Jesus Addresses His Church

Letters to the Churches, Revelation 2–3

Each Church then, like now, had the same general mandate to make disciples among the nations, to worship in spirit and truth, to build each other up in the faith, to love God and love others, but it looked a little different in each locale.

*Revelation 2:1–7, Jesus "State of the Church" to Ephesus

1. Jesus is fully aware of everything that occurs in His Church.
2. Praise:
3. Reproof:
4. Warning and Promise:

Sardis, Revelation 3:1–6

Philadelphia, Revelation 3:7–13

Laodicea, Revelation 3:14–22

Having a sense of our own status in Jesus' building program is clarifying and helpful.

- In the eyes of heaven, as Jesus judges, what's the status of Lion & Lamb?
- What's your status and mine?

III. Lion & Lamb Quantifiables— Not the most important, but significant....

- Attendance
- Small Groups
- Baptisms
- Groups in which L&Lers are serving
- Membership
- Leadership
- Finances:

2016: Total Receipts	\$323,665	Expenses: \$267,295	Diff: \$56,370
2017: YTD Receipts	\$169,130	Expenses: \$112,485	Diff: \$56,645

About \$251,000 in Checking and Savings

IV. Lion & Lamb Mission—

Lion & Lamb Church is a fellowship of worshipping believers, committed to authentically pursuing a vital relationship w/ Jesus Christ, and obeying all His commands.

Lion & Lamb Church—

How are we/L&L doing at putting Jesus' desires for His Church first?
How am I doing as a member of Jesus' Body, the Church in making Jesus' priorities my own?

Is a fellowship ("one another passages")

Are we collectively displaying and living out welcoming, sharing, real relationships?
Am I in a small group where others are aware of my significant life issues and I'm aware of theirs, where we pray for and support each other?

of worshipping believers (John 4:23–24)

Are we encouraging worship as a lifestyle of obedience?
Am I worshipping as a way of life?

committed to authentically pursuing a vital relationship w/ Jesus Christ (John 17:3)

Is relationship w/ Christ our focus?
Do I have a vital relationship w/ Jesus through prayer, scripture, worship, and fellowship?

and obeying all His commands (John 14:15)

Is obedience to Jesus' commands the norm at L&L?
Is my life characterized by obeying God's word?