

The Anatomy of the Church: Internal Systems

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Revelation 1.
- B. Christ is alive in his church and he searches with a penetrating gaze.
- C. We are the church that Christ has built.
- D. Internal systems in the church are life principles/spiritual attitudes that must be cultivated in God's people.

II. Dependence.

- A. This is the attitude of insufficiency.
- B. This can be lost when one is successful through a program. (Psalm 19)
- C. This sense of sufficiency results in driving towards God. (John 14)

III. Flexibility.

- A. We need to be able to change.
- B. This is important so that God can be allowed to do different things.
- C. The church needs to be flexible as well as the individual. (Acts 16)

IV. The desire to grow. (1 Peter 2:2)

- A. We grow by feeding on the Word of God.
- B. We are not learning to know doctrine—we are learning to know God.

V. Faithfulness.

- A. The church needs more “marathon runners.”
- B. The mark of character is enduring commitment. (2 Timothy 4:6)

VI. Hope.

- A. This means security for the future. (Romans 12:12)
- B. We look forward to eternity and a redeemed body. (Romans 8)
- C. This means that we should not too much to the present times. (Matthew 16:21)
- D. Living for eternity will change present behavior. (1 John 3:3)

Application Questions:

1. In what areas could you grow in your dependence upon God?

2. How would you grade your faithfulness in simple things? What can you do to grow in this area?

3. What hope should every Christian look for?
