

# What Makes a Church “Successful?”



**GREAT  
OAKS'**

**30**

**YEAR  
HOMECOMING**

AUGUST 14, 2022

**Blessed & Blessing**

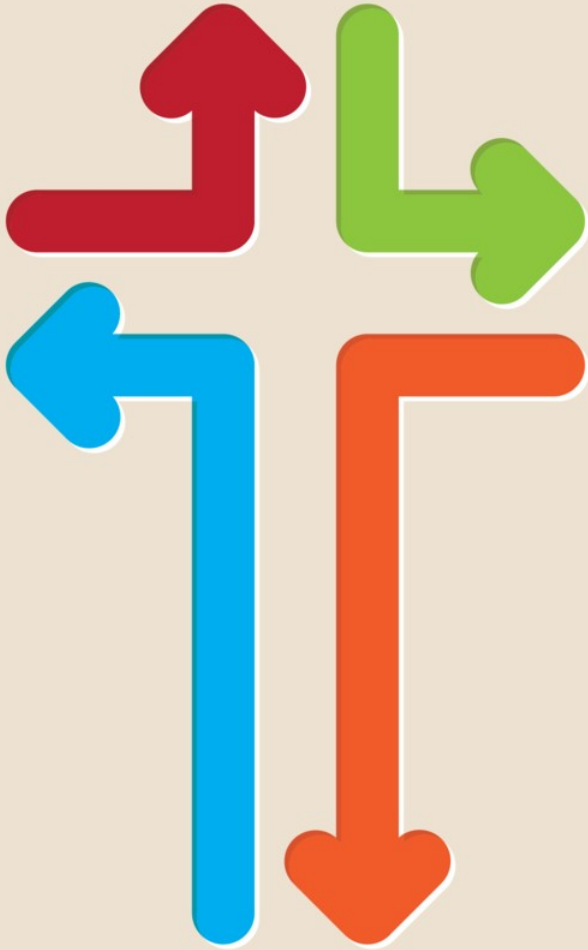


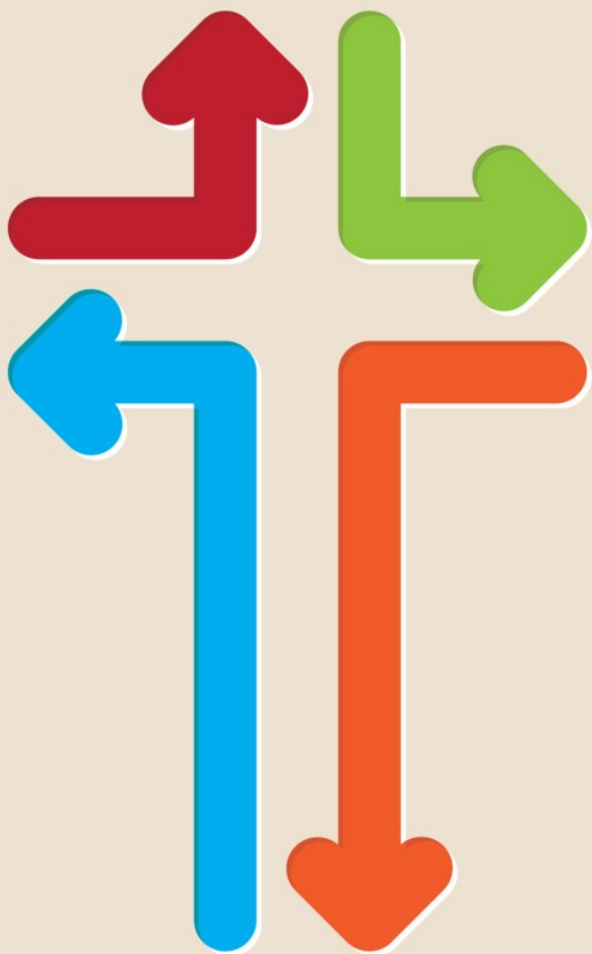
# Three Directions of the Church



## Where It All Starts

# The Church in Ephesians



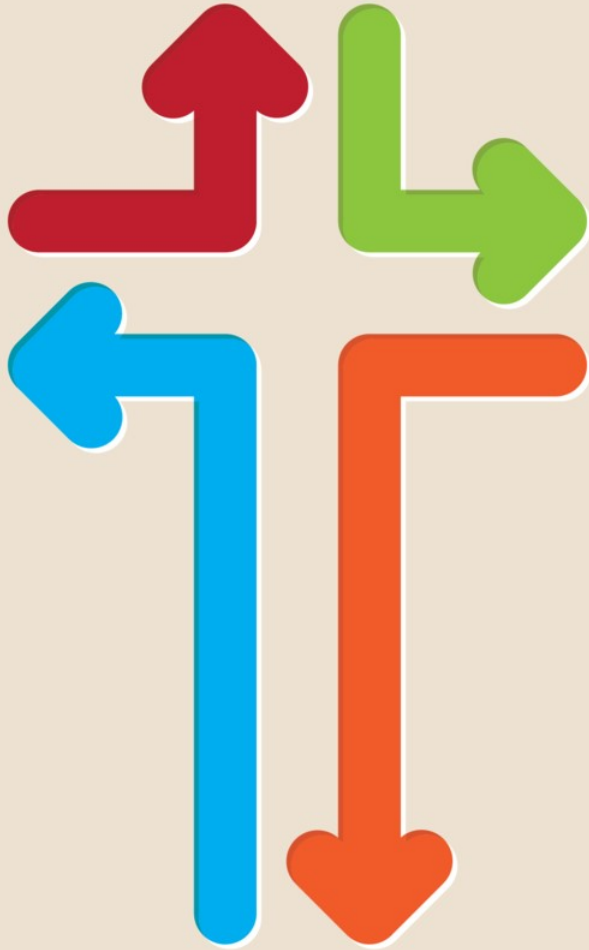


# 1) Ephesians 1:22-23

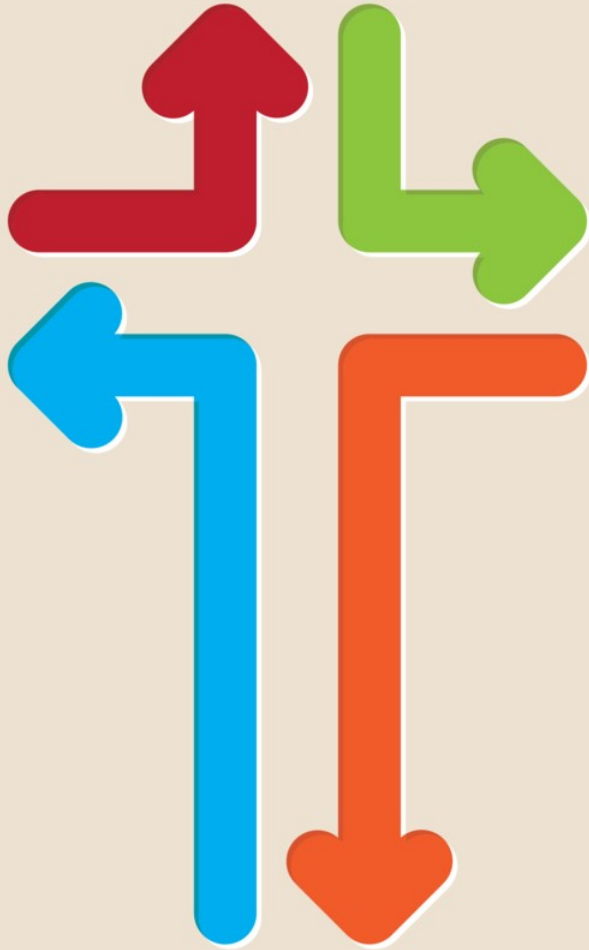
# Ephesians 1:22-23

<sup>22</sup> And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

<sup>23</sup> which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.



-Jesus is the  
head;  
we are His  
body.



## 2) Ephesians 2:19-22



# Ephesians 2:19-22

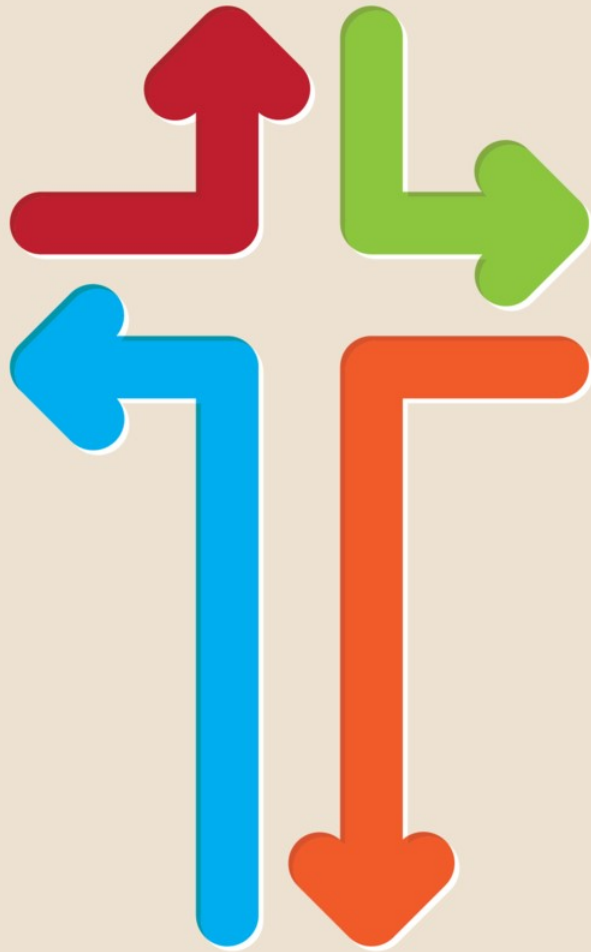
<sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,

<sup>20</sup> having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*,

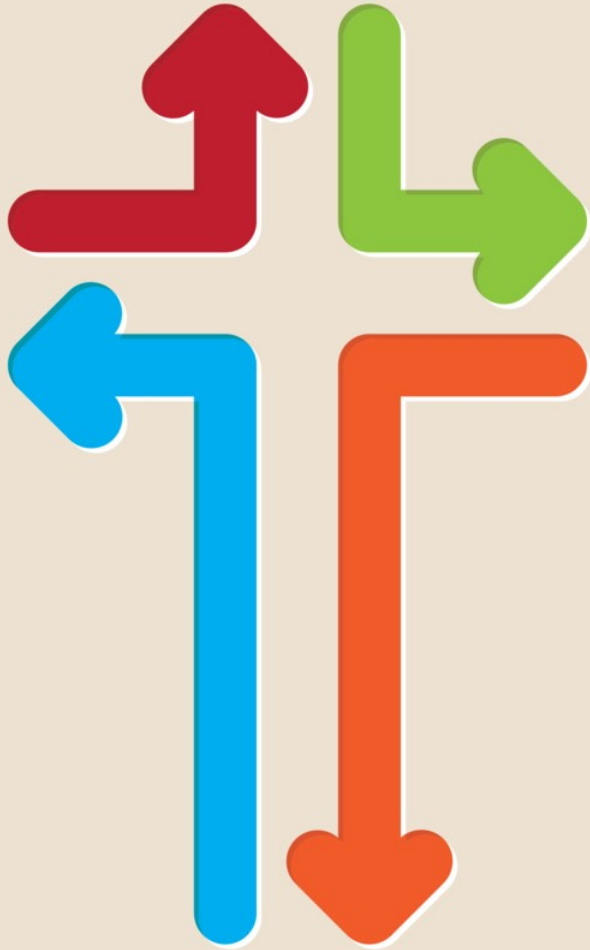
# Ephesians 2:19-22

<sup>21</sup> in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord,

<sup>22</sup> in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.



The church  
is built on  
God's word,  
and it is  
supposed to  
be holy for  
God.

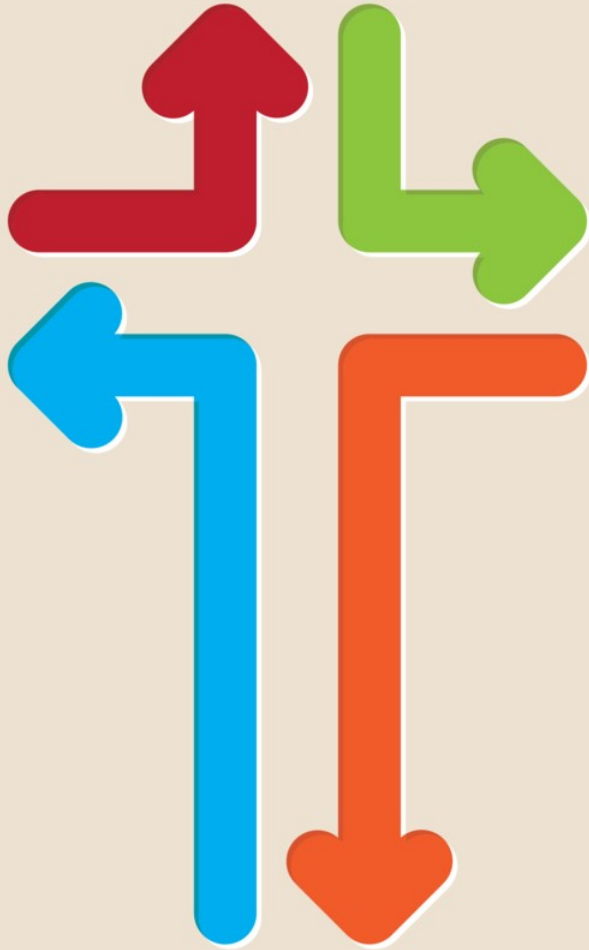


### 3) Ephesians 3:10-11

# Ephesians 3:10-11

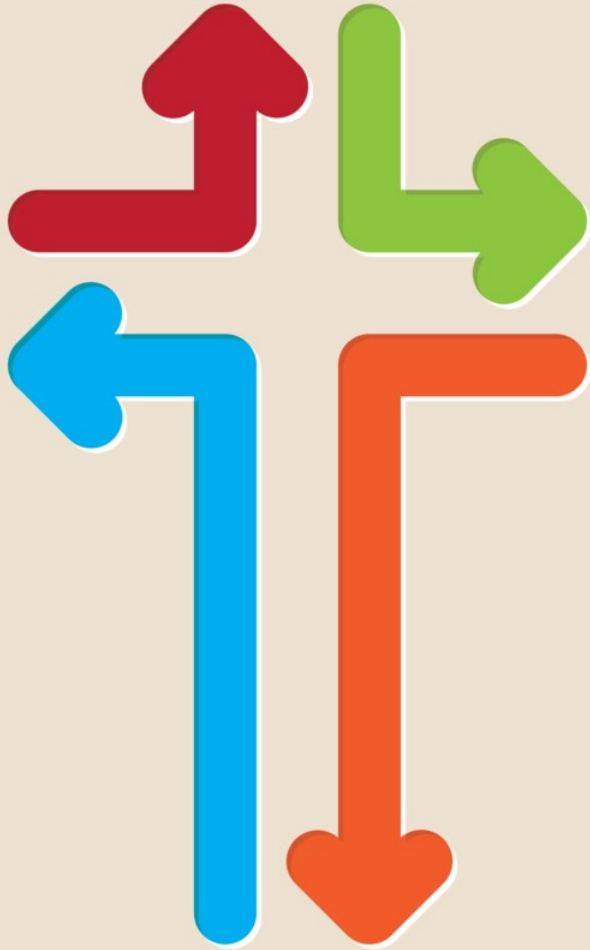
<sup>10</sup> so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly *places*.

<sup>11</sup> *This was* in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,



-The church  
is supposed  
to teach  
God's  
wisdom to  
the world.



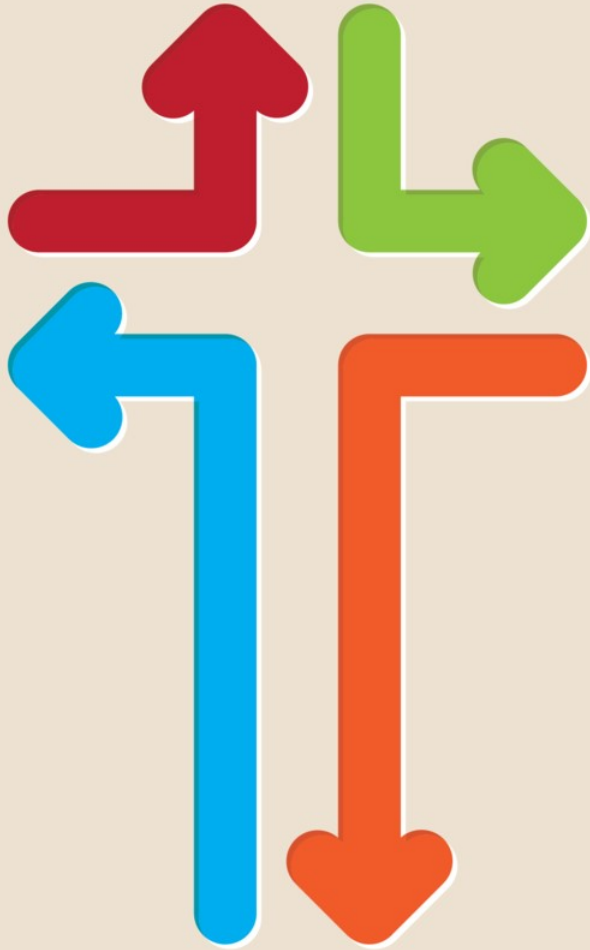


## 4) Ephesians 3:20-21

# Ephesians 3:20-21

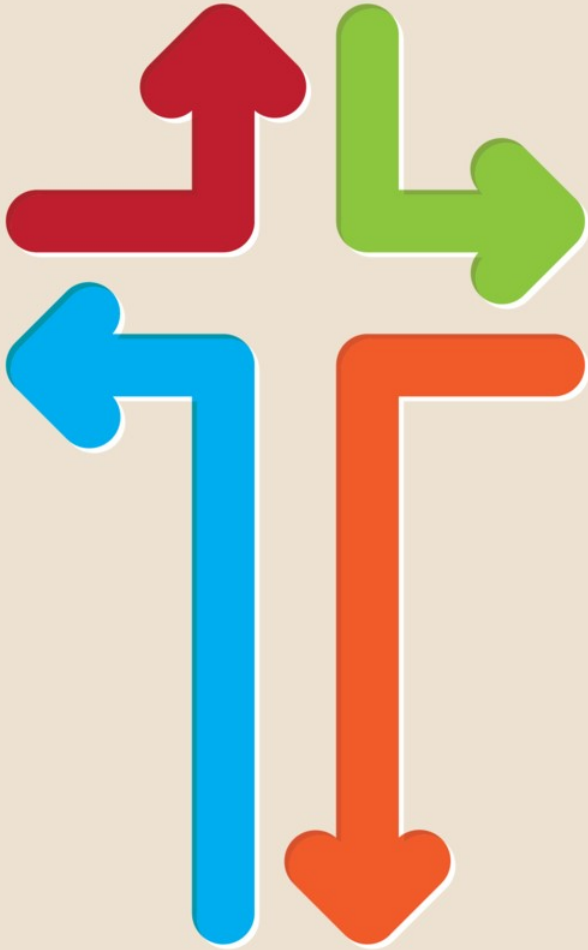
<sup>20</sup> Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,

<sup>21</sup> to Him *be* the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.



-The church  
should be  
for God's  
glory.

# 5) Ephesians 4:2-6



# Ephesians 4:2-6

<sup>3</sup> being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

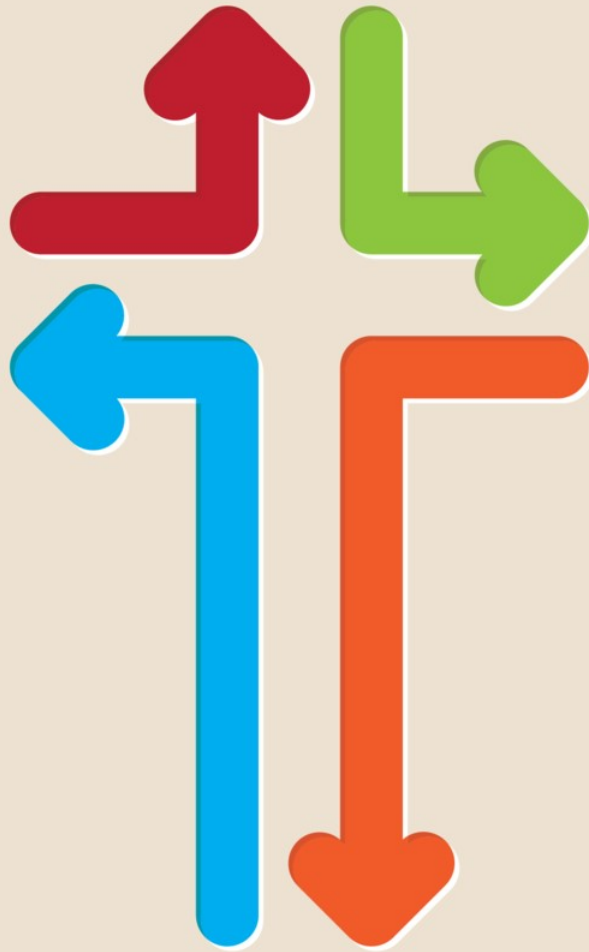
# Ephesians 4:2-6

<sup>4</sup> *There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling;*


<sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

<sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.





-The church's unity is based on its relationship with God and God's teaching.



# The Upward- Looking Church

---

Is it possible  
to call  
yourself a  
church and  
God not be  
pleased?



# Revelation 2:4-5

<sup>1</sup> “To the angel of the church  
in Ephesus write:

# Revelation 2:4-5

<sup>4</sup> But I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love.

<sup>5</sup> Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent.

# Revelation 3:1-3

<sup>1</sup> “To the angel of the church in Sardis write:

He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: ‘I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.



# Revelation 3:1-3

<sup>2</sup> Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.

# Revelation 3:1-3

<sup>3</sup> So remember what you have received and heard; and keep *it*, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.

# Matthew 7:21-23

<sup>21</sup> “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*.

# Matthew 7:21-23

<sup>22</sup> Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'

<sup>23</sup> And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

# 1 Corinthians 11:17

<sup>17</sup> But in giving this instruction, I do not praise you, because you come together not for the better but for the worse.

The most  
important  
question for  
churches  
to ask:  
what does  
God want?



# 1 Corinthians 3:7

<sup>7</sup> So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.

# Psalm 127:1

<sup>1</sup> Unless the LORD builds the house,  
They labor in vain who build it;

...

May we always be a church  
that seeks to glorify God  
above all else...



# What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear

- Hear/learn about Christ (Rom. 10:17)

Believe

- Believe in Christ (John 8:24)

Repent

- Repent/Turn to Christ (Acts 2:38)

Confess

- Confess your faith in Christ (Romans 10:9-10)

Be  
Baptized

- Baptism into Christ (Acts 2:38, Rom 6:3-4)

# James 5:16

<sup>16</sup> Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.