

What's Different About Lighthouse Baptist Church?

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Good morning, Lighthouse, are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

As you travel around this very large city, you will see a lot of advertising being done by various Churches.

One said, "We're not just another Church".

Another claims to be 'different'. Another claims to be 'Spirit filled'. Another claims 'new and refreshing'.

It seems that each one is trying to brand themselves as different from the others, hoping to attract seekers.

Then there are all the reformed Churches; there must be hundreds of them.

Reformed Churches of America, Christian Reformed, Dutch Reformed, United Reformed, Reformed Methodists, Reformed Pentecostals, Reformed Presbyterians, there's even a number of Reformed Baptist Churches.

It makes you wonder what they were that they needed to reform.

It seems most everybody is looking for something new and improved. Yet there are some who are not.

Jeremiah 6:16 Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where *is* the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls...

I know that you love to invite your friends to come to Church with you and no doubt you are tempted to brag on your Church and tell folks that things are really different here.

If you think about it, that might not really be the case.

What is different about LBC? What might you be able to truthfully tell your friends?

I. At Lighthouse, they still preach from the same old KJV Bible the Lord's Churches have been using for the last four hundred years.

A. Why not use something new and improved?

1. That's pretty simple.

2. The leadership at Lighthouse across the board does not believe that there is anything new that is improved.

B. Why? Many reasons, but I will give you one.

1. Scholarship.

2. There were many translations before the KJV and have been many since.

3. All but the KJV were done by either a single individual or a tiny handful of individuals with their work driven by their own agendas.

4. The KJV, or Authorized Version, used forty-seven of the best language scholars in the land and the proven Textus Receptus and the Masoretic Hebrew text: thus no individual agendas would be contained in the finished work.

C. At Lighthouse, they actually believe that the Bible really is the very Word of God.

1. And, they can prove it.

2. Oh, yes, we can.

3. Once you see the evidence you will believe it too, just like the Lord's Churches have always believed; no difference here.

4. **1 Thessalonians 2:13** For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, **when ye received the word of God** which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not as the word of men, but **as it is in truth, the word of God**, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

II. At Lighthouse, they still preach that we're sinners instead of good people.

A. You won't get a lot of "feel good" preaching at Lighthouse.

1. If you want to go to Church and leave feeling good about the way you are living in the world, you might not like it much at Lighthouse.

2. They're going to call you a sinner, tell you that you are not a good person and that you need a Savior.

B. However, after you see yourself as a sinner and decide to place your trust in Jesus...

1. Then that's another story.

2. The peace, love and joy come only **after** you deal with your sin by trusting Jesus to save you.

III. At Lighthouse, they preach the same old Gospel over and over again.

A. This hasn't changed in the Lord's Churches in over 2,000 years.

1. There is **only one power** that will get you saved from your sins.

2. Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

3. I Corinthians 15:3-4

3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

4. They still talk about the blood, the blood, the blood...

5. ...like the most important thing that ever was or is...is how Jesus shed His blood!

B. That's because Jesus' blood is the most important thing that ever was or is!

1. Only the blood of Jesus can set you free from your sin.

2. It is the only payment there ever was or is that will take away the sin that is destroying your life.

IV. At Lighthouse, they still use the same old methods.

A. Preaching and teaching, preaching and teaching, preaching and teaching!

1. 'Come on, this is 2020...can't you all get with it?'

2. 'Come on, we have the internet; we don't even need to be face to face anymore.'

3. 'Don't they know you could catch something?'

B. They are so old fashioned!

1. They want to worship live and in person, not forsaking the assembling of themselves together.

2. They take literally the Lord's command to go and teach people about Jesus.

3. Even to the point of sending and supporting missionaries.

V. At Lighthouse, they still practice the same old baptism.

A. They actually have a big tank filled with water so they can immerse people.

1. A little girl who came to Lighthouse for the very first time she ever attended a Church was asked, "How was it?"
2. She said, "they sang some songs and then there was this guy who got up and talked a long time about this other guy named Jesus.
3. After that they sang some more and then they put this other guy in a big tank of water and tried to drown him."
4. Yes, they actually immerse people in water just like the Lord's Churches have been doing for over 2,000 years!

B. But they won't baptize just anyone.

1. They only baptize those who first trust Jesus to save them.
2. They call it Believer's Baptism.

VI. At Lighthouse, they teach the same old doctrines.

A. They preach "once saved always saved".

1. They take the Bible so literally!
2. They believe that when Jesus said He gives us eternal life, that it really does last forever!
3. **John 5:24** Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.
4. **John 10:27-28**
27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:
28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

B. They teach that the Churches of the Bible are local Churches just like this one.

1. Not some big invisible something that is not real.
2. That Jesus is the head of every one of His Churches.
3. They practice the Lord's Supper and meet on Sunday, the Lord's Day.

4. They practice tithing and giving and not forsaking the assembling of themselves together.

5. Nothing new; just the same as it has always been in the Lord's Churches from which we have descended.

Conclusion:

I know, we can tell our friends that the difference at Lighthouse is the love!

Well, sorry, that's not different either.

2 Thessalonians 1:3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

You see, as our faith grows as we mature in the Lord, our love for one another grows right along with it; just like in all the Lord's Churches throughout the Scriptures.

So, what is the answer to 'what's different about Lighthouse Baptist Church?'

Well, other than the age in which we live, some technology, air conditioning, the laws of the land...things like that; there's really nothing different about us.

We're not new and improved, we're not reformed, we're not cutting edge; we're even about the same size as that first one in Jerusalem after the dust settled when Jesus was crucified.

Which, I suppose, means that we're not for everybody. But just maybe, as God sets the members in the body as it pleases Him; unless you are looking for something new and different; just maybe we're the right Church for you.

I think you'll find that was God's plan all along.