

Church at Antioch

1. Initiated by Unnamed Believers
 - God used ordinary believers sharing the gospel to form an extraordinary church
 - God appoints the proclaiming of the gospel as the power for salvation

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2. Sustained by Spirit-filled Teachers
 - the church was nurtured by men who were not concerned with power or self-promotion but the spiritual welfare of the saints
 - these men were committed to teaching as a vital means of spiritual growth and perseverance in the faith

²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; ²⁴ and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

(Hebrews 10:23-25)

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3. Authenticated by Sincere Generosity
 - the evidence of God's grace is seen in the non-coerced giving for the needs of the saints
 - this generosity went beyond the local church to the needs of the larger body

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- *Disciples were called "Christians"*
 - they were known by others simply as those 'belonging to Christ'