



The Hayes Sector Methodist Church

“United in Love & Service
to God’s Glory”

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A place to BE...!?

Often times you will hear youngsters confer about weekend escapades and which were the coolest, hip & chick places to be, if you wanted to have fun & enjoyment! Some of the measurement used to determine these places was baffling at best, yet quite acceptable in youngsters’ lingo & lifestyles.

So this got me thinking, what is it that makes us as a church **a place to be**? What spurs people on to want to be in church on a daily basis or over the weekend? What defines who we are and what we do and how evident is that to the greater community?

For starters, we have a lot of substantive involvement with the community through christenings/baptisms, weddings & funerals, thanksgivings and other special celebrations like birthdays and milestones in wedding anniversaries. But do the community know of and want to be with us at every spare moment they get? I am not so sure about that. So, instead of dwelling on the negative, what is it that encourages others to want to be here?

1. A warm atmosphere and an ethos of unconditional acceptance & inclusion
2. An offer of a life-pattern that is lived beyond the material to a fruitful life-affirming relationship with God & fellow man
3. The unadulterated truth at all times to ease into life-long discipleship that matches the love of Christ
4. The offer of open, non-judgemental friendship as we engage in services, retreats, church trips, learning together and playing together in picnics & ‘ramblings’.

All the while doing this, for a **Christ centred church with visible life-values for the building of our community...** ♥✝ *Jongi.*

Chosen for “oneness” - to make all..., citizens of God’s household

Welcome: *Why is it, do you think, that society has created status among people? Share your feelings about ‘class-living’ in general.*

Worship: Praise God for welcoming us all into His family. Give Him honour, glory and worship His Holy Name for giving identity and meaning to our lives, irrespective of societal perception.

Word: Jeremiah 23: 1 – 6 & Ephesians 2: 11 – 22;

✘ Whilst God gave people a king as per their request (see I Samuel 8:1-9); it is these same kings that created *social strata*, resulting in the kings’ living for their own benefit as opposed to shepherding God’s people. It is to this misnomer that Jeremiah addresses his words of prophesy. Such failure on their part de-fragmented the community, exposed people to dangerous living patterns away from God and deprived them of direction and leadership. *Are you able to pinpoint in your life where you may have misled/excluded others due to the pursuit of own needs?*

✘ Our failures (especially as you note world affairs) to lead people into God’s ways should not be interpreted as God not caring about the suffering in the world. We should take responsibility for our mistakes and seek Jesus Christ’s guidance in helping us reconcile to one another and with God (c.f. Ephesians 2: 13-18). *Whilst we may exclude others through our behaviour & selfishness, Christ draws everyone (who will accept Him) in.*

✘ Christians are called to live beyond legalism! Just because society has certain accepted norms that tend to exclude others, gives us no reason to conform and seek to act likewise. We need to learn to live in openness and always for oneness (inclusiveness). (vs. 15&20) *How far are you prepared to go to breakdown walls of exclusion?*

Our Witness:

✘ *Live to remind others that **we’re all one in Christ!***

Prayer: Loving God, please guide my intentions in life and help me to be a unifying presence amongst your people. Together, help us Lord to be attentive to those who seek, gentle with those who’re lost and be comforting to the weak & the poor... Amen!