

## Becoming A Model Church

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### I Thessalonians 1: 4-10

*“And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.” 1 Thess 1:7*

#### Characteristics of a Model Church

*“For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake.” Vs 4-6*

1. **IMITATION** *“You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering.” Vs 6*

The law of association: We become most like those we associate with the most.

*“In spite of severe suffering.”*

2. **ELATION**. *“You welcomed the message with joy given by the Holy Spirit.” Vs 6b*

The key to joy: Everything God says to us and expects of us is for our good.

3. **DECLARATION** *The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia — your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it.” Vs 7-8*

The key: We have to become more unselfish with what we have.

4. **TRANSFORMATION** *“You turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.” Vs 9*

Idol: Anything that stands between you and God.

The key: Replace one with the other.

**5. ANTICIPATION** *“and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead — Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath. Vs 10*

*“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Col 3:1-4*

**The Key:** Nothing has the power to shape present living like the anticipation of eternity.

*2 Peter 3:11-14 “What kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.”*