

# Building a Strong, Healthy Church

*Proverbs 27:17, Acts 17:11, 1 John 4:1, Romans 12:1-3*

**Main idea:** To provide a comprehensive understanding of what constitutes a strong, healthy church and how to foster such an environment.

**Topic:** A Strong, Healthy Church

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Suggestions for moving forward with your sermon on a strong, healthy church:

1. Emphasize the importance of community and mutual growth:

- Scripture: Hebrews 10:24-25 - "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."
- Highlight the need for active engagement within the church community, encouraging members to support and uplift one another.

2. Discuss the role of discernment and testing teachings:

- Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:21 - "But test everything; hold fast what is good."
- Explain the importance of being discerning and examining teachings against the truth of God's Word, as demonstrated by the Bereans in Acts 17:11.

3. Explore the concept of spiritual transformation:

- Scripture: Ephesians 4:22-24 - "to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness."

- Discuss how individual transformation contributes to the overall health and strength of the church.

4. Address the significance of unity and diversity within the church:

- Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12-14 - "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many."

- Highlight the beauty of diverse gifts and talents within the church, emphasizing the need for unity and cooperation.

Language suggestions from the original languages:

1. Proverbs 27:17 - "Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another."

- Explain the metaphor of iron sharpening iron, emphasizing the idea of mutual growth and improvement.

2. Romans 12:1-3 - "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

- Highlight the significance of offering ourselves as living sacrifices and being transformed by the renewing of our minds.

Additional verses to support your point:

1. Colossians 3:16 - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."

- Emphasize the importance of engaging with Scripture and teaching one another through wisdom and worship.

2. 1 Peter 2:5 - "you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

- Discuss the idea of believers being built together as a spiritual house, highlighting the concept of interdependence and unity.

Remember to weave these additional ideas and Scriptures into your existing sermon outline to reinforce your current points and provide a well-rounded message on a strong, healthy church.