

Analysis of the Concept of a Healthy Church Based on Acts 4:32

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ABSTRACT: This study aims to analyze the concept of a healthy church based on Acts 4:32 and its relevance to the Church today. The method used is qualitative exegesis and data collection through Bible sources, books, and journals that discuss topics as needed. This topic is necessary because many unhealthy churches are now full of divisions. The result: First, a healthy church has unity and unity among its congregations. The Church, in conclusion, is a spiritual institution and belongs to God in essence; it must be fit by showing the characteristics of oneness and unity in the community so that in this way, the Church can glorify the name of God.

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INTRODUCTION

God presents the Church in the world, intending to expand His kingdom. As a religious organization and organism, the Church as the Body of Christ, as stated (Rajagukguk, 2018), has the responsibility to be light and salt to its surroundings so that the condition of the Church is usually healthy. The Church as a witness of Christ represents the Kingdom of God and has unique characteristics, so there is a difference between the Church as God's congregation and people in general.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

According to (Alex Stefanus Ginting, 2021), quoting Peter Wongso, a healthy church is a church that is functioning well and is experiencing growth both spiritually and quantitatively. However, in reality, many churches do not show the criteria or signs of a healthy church, so instead of being witnesses and light, their holiness status is questioned as divine organisms and followers of Christ. Therefore, the sick Church, according to (Setiawan, David Eko, 2019), is the reason the Church does not grow and has a worldly nature. Furthermore, disputes after disputes that lead to church divisions have become a trend because flesh desires and selfish traits are still found in specific communities of believers, thus clearly describing the health condition of the Church as it should be.

(Whitney, 2018) argues that because love is a sign and characteristic of Christianity. However, the Church is capable of preaching, witnessing, and teaching; the Church is not healthy without signs of growth in love which is the most extraordinary thing for Christians. According to (Widi Artanto, 2008), the Church is not the Kingdom of God, but the Church is an instrument or tool and a sign of the Kingdom of God that will come into the world. Thus, the Church, through love as a character and as an instrument of God, is called to work in the world so that through oneness and unity in togetherness, the world can witness the radiance of Christ's glory that radiates, thereby attracting the attention and longing of the world around the Church for the fellowship of believers as God's family.

The early Church described in Acts 4:32 reflects the ideal and healthy church model in which there are values of love that implement the will and desires of God's heart to produce the quality and expansion of His Kingdom on earth. This fact is in line with the opinion (Yulia Darlin; Ragil Kristiawan; Rudy Chandra Saputra, 2020), which states that the early Church practiced love for one another in its time. Therefore, the author agrees with Rajagukguk and Whitney that the Church is the Body of Christ which has the responsibility to be light and salt to its surroundings through love, a sign, and characteristic of Christianity. So, in contrast to Widi Artanto, the author sees the Church as not just a tool or instrument. From the Kingdom of God to come, but the Church is truly the

Kingdom of God on earth because Christ is the Head of the Church, and His Spirit lives as a seal in every believer so that it enables and enables the Church to shine and be a witness amid the world through actions. Therefore, real love is a sign of a healthy church. Thus, the writer aims to analyze the concept of a healthy church based on Acts 4:32 and its relevance to the Church today.

METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this study is to analyze the concept of a healthy church based on Acts 4:32 and what is its relevance to the Church today? The method used is qualitative exegesis and data collection through Bible sources, books, and journals that discuss topics as needed. First, the author analyzes the text of Acts 4:32 to obtain fundamental theories or Grounded Theory (J., 2021) and describes the text holistically and comprehensively (H., 2020).

RESULTS

The Background of Acts 4:32

Luke is the author of the Acts of the Apostles, which is a continuation of the Gospel of Luke addressed to Theophilus, both the gospel, which tells the life and teachings of Jesus, and also the work of Christ, which has produced a movement that has shaken the world because it appears with values that are different from the previous habits. Because God's congregations are God's churches, the obligation to love one another becomes the standard of the Church under God's plan and calling: a healthy and proactive church witnessing Christ.

A Healthy Church Has Oneness and Unity Among Its Congregations

As an example and pioneer for the Church today, the Early Church lives not only in togetherness but also in oneness. Because togetherness is not automatically synonymous with health, this is with the divisions that occur in some churches where the congregation gathers every Sunday and mid-Sunday to carry out various activities in togetherness, but in reality with different motivations from one another. However, in the early Church, based on Acts 4:32, it is found that they, as God's people gathered in one heart and one mind, which witnessed through concern for one another.

In Acts 4:32, the word of God states that there is a fellowship of believers with one heart and one soul. The word one heart in Greek with the term "kardia" refers to the conscience, which also speaks of purity of the heart, and sincere motivation towards others, which of course, begins with the fear and love of God. The second word is "soul," which in Greek is called "psyche" and means spirit, mind, or mind. So that the terms of one heart and one soul speak of oneness, can

be understood in the congregation where the motivation in serving is with a pure heart or with a good conscience, one mind, and one goal in life together, namely glorifying God. This comprehension is in line with what was conveyed by (Eldista Limbongbua, 2022) that health is a priority in an alliance so that the ego is eliminated. The same thing was told by (Ambarita, 2018) by saying that in the life of the early congregations, they upheld Christian values even though, in reality, they were their culture and background as faithful followers of the Jewish religion.

DISCUSSION

Oneness is based on awareness of status as God's people with the same calling and purpose. Because through the new birth, there is a change in mindset according to what God wants as the beginning and basis of any action to be taken. Therefore, the conscience of the early Church was proven after the events of Pentecost to function correctly so that a pure motivation for togetherness drove their behavior. So, (Jevri Terok, 2017) believes that harmony is necessary for the congregation, so to achieve it, all togetherness must strive for it.

On the other hand, health cannot be separated from unity in togetherness. Without unity, it is impossible to have unity in the Church, and unity is the fruit of the love in the heart of everyone who has accepted Christ as the personal Lord in his life. So, Acts 4:32 records that not only is the fellowship of believers of one heart and soul, but also in that fellowship, no one conveys or considers to own anything as a person, but whatever is privately owned, each of them is made their own. Together, regardless of who gave more or less.

In addition to the unity of purpose and vision, the concern between them becomes so intense that selfishness is automatically eradicated. Therefore (Mark Devver, 2013) argues that the congregation as church members is responsible for showing each other the love and sympathy expressed through unity. The duties and responsibilities of church members to one another encapsulate a life of love. As followers of Jesus Christ, Christians are obligated to love one another. Otherwise, pride will take over, and eventually, there will be strife within the community of believers, which will be detrimental to the Church and its purpose. Because in a healthy church, unity produces oneness as a driving force for all those in the group who accompany Jesus in carrying out the mission of the Church as it should be. Thus, (Chamblin, 2011) reveals that quarrels with others stem from arrogance, which ultimately makes the relationship with God not good.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Church is a spiritual institution and belongs to God; in essence, it must be healthy by showing the characteristics of oneness and unity in the

community together so that the name of God is glorified. Harmony and unity go hand in hand and cannot be separated, for, without either of the two, the love of Christ is abolished, and where there is no love, there is no healthy church because a healthy church loves. After all, in it, the congregation is filled with the pure and perfect love of Christ. So as a recommendation, the Church today needs to understand and practice love as God's mandate in the world by imitating the early Church.

FURTHER STUDY

The author realizes that there are many limitations in the research that has been carried out. Hence, he plans to continue this research to examine the influence of a healthy church in carrying out the mandate of evangelism to complete the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

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