

Local church... "Emergency Room" - (Triage)

Triage - the sorting of and allocation of treatment to patients and especially battle and disaster victims according to a system of priorities designed to maximize the number of survivors -

Hospital for sinners - not - a hotel for saints

Evangelism is an emergency! John the Baptist...

No scripture, prophet or word from God for 400 years prior to his outcry

Discipleship is a regular office visit.

The metaphor of the church as hospital is a rich one, and the relationship between curing the body and caring for the soul lives in the anatomy of Christian tradition.

The medieval church birthed the first hospitals, and biblical scholars and theologians regularly liken the work of the Christian minister to that of a doctor, one who welcomes the sick, binds up the broken and soothes the suffering.

The Gospel writer Luke was trained as a physician, which may explain why the famous example of the Good Samaritan, who bandages and cares for the beaten and bloody man by the side of the Jericho road, appears in his Gospel and no other. Likewise, Luke's medical training surely influenced his account of the early church as possessing healing power in the book of Acts.

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- Most churches are not healthy life giving hospitals but instead are NOW "HOSPICES" - a home providing care for the sick, especially the terminally ill. *archaic* a lodging for travelers, especially one run by a religious order.

the intention of the emergency room is for the patient to **leave**. Not only leave, but leave in a relatively short time. That might be to a more specialized care unit, or it might be to go home, depending on the severity of the illness or injury. The goal of the emergency department is to assess presenting conditions, and to *begin treatment*. It is unlikely the entire process of treatment and healing will happen in the ER.

1. ARE we an ER? Hospital? Doctors office? or Hospice?

2. When are you going to med school? nurses aid? RN? or MD?

3. It's time to stop being a patient!

"the walking wounded" or baby birds with their mouths open!

Eph 4 - As a prisoner of the Lord, I beg you to live in a way that is worthy of the people God has chosen to be his own. ² Always be humble and gentle. Patiently put up with each other and love each other. ³ Try your best to let God's Spirit keep your hearts united. Do this by living at peace. ⁴ All of you are part of the same body. There is only one Spirit of God, just as you were given one hope when you were chosen to be God's people. ⁵ We have only one Lord, one faith, and one baptism. ⁶ There is one God who is the Father of all people. Not only is God above all others, but he works by using all of us, and he lives in all of us...

14 We must stop acting like children. We must not let deceitful people trick us by their false teachings, which are like winds that toss us around from place to place. ¹⁵ Love should always make us tell the truth. Then we will grow in every way and be more like Christ, the head ¹⁶ of the body. Christ holds it together and makes all of its parts work perfectly, as it grows and becomes strong because of love.

17 **As a follower of the Lord, I order you to stop living like stupid, godless people.** ¹⁸ Their minds are in the dark, and they are stubborn and ignorant and have missed out on the life that comes from God. They no longer have any feelings about what is right, ¹⁹ and they are so greedy that they do all kinds of indecent things.

²⁰⁻²¹ But that isn't what you were taught about Jesus Christ. He is the truth, and you heard about him and learned about him. ²² You were told that your foolish desires will destroy you and that you must give up your old way of life with all its bad habits. ²³ **Let the Spirit change your way of thinking** ²⁴ **and make you into a new person.** You were created to be like God, and so you must please him and be truly holy.